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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE | www.macleans.ca

OCTOBER 17 200

A MACLEAN'S
INVESTIGATION

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SEA

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On Hollywood's dirty,
filthy habits

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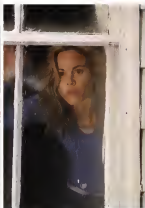
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"Fear is used by government, big business and the media to keep us, the masses, under control. Then we listen to whatever message makes us feel safe." —*Kel Harnish, Victoria*

Shivering in our shoes

Growing up in Hong Kong during an outbreak of the deadly strains of avian flu, H2N1, I would watch the mass poultry slaughter on television after my Saturday morning cartoons. I can still recall the apprehension of the city and the subdued panic of my parents. While Lucien George's observations of our obsession with nonexistent epidemics were refreshing, "The real epidemic is fear," Cover, Oct. 31, I wonder if there is a danger in dismissing fear of disease such as West Nile and H2N1 as society's flimsy hysteria. There is certainly a danger in concluding that Canadian society is, statistically speaking, immune to the viruses that plague other parts of the planet. The world has become too interconnected for that school of thought.

July 16, Toronto

In your article about making fear the paradigm, the writer quotes a U.K. sociologist, and not an epidemiologist, saying "There are very real threats, but they don't drive us to follow a Hollywood disaster movie script." We have ways to contain those things that would be seen as unthinkable even 10 years ago. "That's a little bit getting a quote from former FEMA director Michael Brown about hurricane disaster management. I'd expect more from a Canadian publication."

Neil Harnish, Victoria

On target

Former U.S. ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci's conclusion regarding Paul Martin's rejection of the U.S. missile defense program was accurate ("Off target," The Maclean's Express, Sept. 26). The government did not capitulate "to a minority of its own MPs" when it sent the Americans packing last February. The real reason was the Liberal Internal Convention, which was to take place a few short days later. The vast majority of over 2,000 grassroots Liberal MPs, Quebec, and women's wings most adamantly were out to let the party leadership know exactly how they felt about the missile defense proposal over three televised convention days. To make matters



worse, there would be a confidence vote in Martin's leadership at the end of those three days. For the wrong reasons, Martin made the right decision. Consultation with members of a political party and with the general public may be an uncomfortable process to a representative of the world's second superpower. That consultation and fear of humiliation had a rather profound effect on the Prime Minister's decision.

Carolyne Parikh, Mt. Wollongong, Ont.

I am sure that in Washington, people remember Iraq, missile defense, Carolyn Parikh and Françoise Ducros.

Gordon Kirk, Ottawa

Paul Cellucci can't understand why Paul Martin backed off joining the U.S. missile defense system. Perhaps the Prime Minister is an independent thinker. Perhaps he sees the folly of putting weapons in space. Perhaps he wants to be re-elected.

Joan Morrison, Thunder Bay, Ont.

Refugee status

I have read just about everything written about the New Orleans devastation, as my home is three-decked. Joseph Boyden's story about going back after the hurricane ("All that remains," *Karma*, After the Flood, Sept. 26) is by far the most con-

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pling. I am working out of the country, but he made me feel that I was there with him. I forwarded his story to my wife, Nancy, and children, who are homeless and staying with relatives in Austin. She said, "That article is incredible! Where did you find it?" Thanks.

Jan Schmitt, New Orleans

The generosity and leadership shown by Frank Stronach is truly inspiring. In-wait-of with people in need is nothing short of astounding. "Mother's up?" How often I think over that there is at least one Stronach who is genuinely concerned about people and their well-being or opposed to being focused solely on self-aggrandizement.

David Goldstein, Chatham, Ont.

Was it race or is it dabbling in race to read the article about the Katrina refugees who have taken up a new home at Frank Stronach's Palm Beach, Fla., home, missing facility? I felt for these people. Many Canadians give donations to assist them in their time of need.

It was my understanding that these donations were going to be put to good use and help them to survive, not live in the lap of luxury, especially using donated Red Cross money to help purchase a diamond ring. Last time I checked, engagement rings were not on the priority list for survival.

Meredith Walker, Toronto, Ont.

All pumped up

I have a heated reply to Steve Walsh's column "Stronach the \$199.00" All Business, Sept. 26. It is saying we should rejoice at the gas prices? A massive leak in the well at a massive hole in the wall? Is Canada as an energy exporter, and neither Katrina nor Rice came anywhere close to us, it makes no sense that our gas prices are skyrocketing. Knowing I'm being goosed by home-grown oil cars doesn't make it feel any better. It can't imagine how a huge gas price increase would help any rate-OPEC member's economy. March says just on a meter and get a bus pass. Guess I'll have to not call attend gas or leaving oil, either.

Harris, wonder what I can burn to warm the place. His article, maybe.

John Gault, Kingston, N.S.

Steve Walsh has the seat squarely on the hand. The world has grown used to cheap oil and now it is becoming a rude awakening. The ironic thing is that oil has never been cheap, not when you measure it not in dollars, and not environmentally, socially, or in human terms. Governments need to find ways to actively encourage conservation, create market that people want to use, and regulate construction to maximize the use of energy saving practices. It is indeed encouraging when a business writer, of all people, manages to transcend the usual bottom-line mentality to see the bigger picture.

Gordon Taylor, Victoria

Amiel on the record

A week after the *Melanie Newman* story ("The Secret Melanoid," *Express*, Sept. 19), Barbara Amiel's column appeared with a snappy reference to an interview that had given

This Hero's Ready to Ride...

TABLE 4. *Continued*

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UPFRONT

HIGH ALERT Security in New York City's subway system was beefed up after city authorities received what they described as "a specific threat" of terrorism. Federal Homeland Security spokesman downplayed the danger. But President George W. Bush tapped the terrorism alert when he said in a speech on the same day that 10 serious plots had been foiled by the U.S. and its allies since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

FINALLY The NHL season began at long last, after a better look-out (but later) for 340 days before a deal was hammered out in July. Among the high lights: 18-year-old rookie phenom Sidney Crosby taking on the ice for the first time with the Pittsburgh Penguins. He got an assist, although his team lost 5-1 to the New Jersey Devils.

Meanwhile, the CBC and its union ended their labour dispute, which had seen employees locked out for 50 days. This meant Hockey Night in Canada was expected to be back on the air over the weekend.

BOMBING Indefensible officials said the suicide bombers responsible for the attack in Bali on Oct. 12 had killed 19 people appeared to have been part of a small gang with no links to larger organizations such as al-Qaeda.

BY WES TRILL



Terrorism experts noted the parallels with the attacks on the London transit system on July 7, and said the bombings were an indication of the dire state of international terrorism in heading.

STAYING ON After intense speculation that he might go home to Nova Scotia to seek the provincial Tory leadership, Peter MacKay announced he will stay on as Ottawa's deputy leader of the federal party. MacKay's decision came after what was described as a seven-hour meeting with leader Stephen Harper. Relations between the two were previously said to be cool.

SEVERANCE Several Liberal MPs, not to mention the opposition, expressed outrage over news that David Duggan, former head of the Royal Canadian Mint, would be receiving a severance. Duggan resigned on Sept. 28 after a fiasco over his expenses and the fact that he engaged in controversial lobbying.

TRAGEDY Pinche watched her father being arrested on Sept. 23 by Winnipeg police. Then the puppy she'd bought for \$2 was taken by neighbourhood bullies who had been terrorizing her. In the end, it all proved to be just too much for 11-year-old Kathleen Reidy. On Oct. 1, she hung herself on the branch of a tree in her yard with her puppy's leash, and he pressed down on it as she strangled off her own life in a single other city area.

STOKES AND STONES A woman was lured off of a Southwest Airlines flight in Reno after some fellow passengers complained of her behavior. It featured a piece of the President, Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice—and an explosive. Lorrie Hensley, 32, who plans to file a civil rights complaint, stated sarcastically that she has cousins fighting for Iraq freedom.

FLY-FIGHTERS George W. Bush said he would consider calling out the military to help enforce guarantees in the event of an avian flu pandemic. Some critics said such a move, which would require the consent of Congress, would be akin to imposing martial law on the country.

DELAY Representative Tom DeLay (R-Tex.) was hit with a second indictment, this one accusing him of money-hauling. He was forced to step down as House majority leader on Sept. 28 after an initial indictment for conspiracy was issued against him by a Texas grand jury.

ENHANCE Soaring gas prices finally caught up to SUVs in North America as sales of larger vehicles in that class slumped last month by 30 per cent in Canada and 43 per cent in the United States. Overall U.S. automobiles fell by 79 per cent, compared to a 3.4 per cent decline in Canada.

Meanwhile, in Ottawa the federal cabinet approved a \$2.4-billion five-year plan to help deal with mounting energy costs. Included in the proposal is a \$250 heating rebate for lower-income families with children and senior couples, and \$125 for single seniors.

POT OFF The final trial of Chuck Guisard and Jon Brault, the two men at the centre of the sponsorship scandal, was postponed until May 1. Hearings were originally to start this month, but their lawyers argued that the New 1 release of Justice John Gurney's initial report into Adcochem, which would have occurred during the proceedings, would jeopardize their right to a fair hearing. The delay also means that the trial will take place after the next federal election, which Prime Minister Paul Martin has promised to call within 30 days of Gurney's final report, scheduled for a Feb. 1 release.



Health | BY JOHN GEIGORS

BYPASSING YOUR DOCTOR

Can the Web fix the wait-time crisis, and ultimately even save medicare?

median wait. But the latest busy specialist, a relative newcomer to the region, had just six patients waiting for artificial hips, and the median wait to go under his knife was 23 weeks. The surprised GP admitted that his patients just might want to know about the big difference.

Or consider another veteran family doctor, this one in Sask. Dr. Marie, Oka, who couldn't imagine he'd have much use for the pioneering web sites are powered by the Caduceus Care Network of Ontario. If his patients need angioplasty, for instance, he sends them to a Sudbury hospital, where he knows the procedure is done reasonably promptly. Why shop around? But, again, since the question had come up, the doctor googled the network and found the site. In a matter of minutes he was looking at a table that shows the median wait for angioplasty in Sudbury is 83 days, while the wait at a suburban Toronto hospital, about four hours' drive further away, is just two days. Worth keeping in mind—especially if you take into account a recent survey conducted by the network that found one in five Ontario heart patients will try to consider travelling far from home to get quicker care.

Heating these stories sets off Dr. Alan Hudson, the neurosurgeon who heads the Ontario government's strategy for shrinking wait times. "That's classic. They don't know what they don't know," he says. "And there are probably very good reasons you can see how hard it is to change things." Most physicians routinely refer patients to the specialists they know best, Hudson says, which means the workloads of the specialist surgeons are often not nearly as heavy as those of other doctors. But the physicians' personal networks have a powerful new rival: the Internet. Across Canada, websites are exposing the previously closed-off world of wait times to the scrutiny of anyone who knows how to navigate a mouse. Hudson, not a man given to understatements, describes the idea behind these sites that way: "What we're trying to do is change the whole system of health-care delivery."

In the political debate over what to do about long waits for health care, the focus is usually on front-line medical resources. Train more doctors and nurses, keep operating rooms open longer hours, add more

hospital beds—these are the solutions that get the most attention. This fall, Ottawa and the provinces are also preoccupied with setting the benchmarks they've promised by Dec. 31 for how long Canadians should wait before receiving certain surgeries and scans. Officials admit it is doubtful they will lay out a full range of benchmarks by that key deadline (page 14). Often lost in the swirl of discussion on promises, though, is the neglected information that some see as the most democratic factor for change.

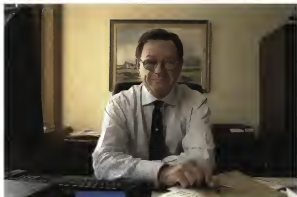
This flood of new data is meant to tell patients what they need to know to take greater control of their own care. Being able to pinpoint where waits are shortest is expected to encourage them to move around more inside their provinces. And if the wait-making sites evolve to let easy comparisons be made among provinces, some doctors predict growing pressure from patients who want to travel to another province for treatment.

At the time of Internet wait-time disclosures, shifts in power to patients, it's also hoped to keep the pressure on politicians and hospital administrators. "What the public is going to see initially is that the wait times are coming down," Hudson says. "If they ever start to go back up again, all hell is going to break loose."

The revolution hasn't arrived overnight. Ontario's cardiac network was born out of the late-1990s upsurge over patients dying while waiting for heart surgery. Its website now tracks more than 75,000 procedures a year, showing, for instance, that from May to July that year 87 per cent of emergency and urgent heart surgeries were done within the recommended wait of no longer than 14 days at Kingston General Hospital, compared with 91 per cent over that two-week period at Toronto's University Health Network. Partly inspired by the Ontario cardiac care experiment, Saskatchewan launched a site in 2003 that details a wide range of surgical wait times, organically by specialty and region. Alberta's site arrived that same year, and has been beefed up since. Last month, B.C. unveiled a slick version of the concept, with a home page that features a picture of an articulated wooden artist's dummy, like the one on those TV ads for dissection bodies that reach wide, and the site opens to lists of surgeons who can do the job and

Now, wait times for specialists like heart surgeons can be found online.

DOCTORS TEND to be confident bubble. Take the experienced family physician in Nanaimo, B.C., who said he didn't see why his patients would need to use the province's new website that reveals detailed, often minutes-on-van-trip-for-surgery. He already knew all about the backlog—if a patient needed, say, a hip replacement, it didn't matter much which specialist got the referral. "The benchmarks are at the hospitals, as they all have months-long waits," he said. But since he'd been asked, he checked his way to the B.C. site's link for his corner of Vancouver Island. It turned out that of five nearby orthopaedic surgeons, the busiest had 82 patients in his queue, with a 96-week



Doctors remind Ontario's strategy for trying to shrink wait times.

their apointments waiting times. Nova Scotia jumped in just last week with its take on the concept. Provincial officials boast that they are leading the country in access of disabled information about access to diagnostic imaging, such as MRI and ultrasound scans. The Nova Scotia approach also tracks how long it takes for a patient to see a specialist after being referred by a regular doctor, along with details on the wait times for some surgeries. After two years planning the site, officials said they hope it inspires patients and their physicians to consider moving around the province for care.

While Nova Scotia is the smallest province to try putting a wait times on the Web, just Ontario is about to get into the game. Hudson said that later this month the province will unveil an Internet option that will bring together a massive amount of patient data from some 70 hospitals. It will offer easy-to-access information on the so-called five list of provinces set by the Prime Minister and the previous health minister: wait times for cardiac and cancer surgeries, eye operations and joint replacements, along with diagnostic imaging. Patients who use the new Ontario site will be able,

among other things, to select a health problem from a menu, type in a postal code, and see a list of the five closest hospitals that provide the needed procedure and the length of their wait times. The challenge is to take patient information from what Hudson calls "153 IT cottage industries" at hospitals and clinics and consolidate it as one information technology system.

Doctors may have to be more open with patients who know much more about the state of the wait. "We're in the early days of a new mentality," says Dr. Eric Cohen, a Toronto cardiologist and the Cardiac Care Network's medical officer. "There has to

be a higher level of disclosure to patients about what wait times are, what acceptable wait times are, and what some of the options are if those acceptable wait times can't be met." According to Cohen, not only should doctors tell patients how quickly they need treatment, they should also be explicit about the level of risk they face—something that's not always happening now. "It's certainly our suspicion that many patients are not aware of how their physician would classify that level of urgency," he says. "We believe there could be more communication between the referring physician, the hospital or physician that is providing the invasive procedure, and the patient, about their expected level of urgency and their recommended wait time."

One problem with the wait-time sites is that it's hard to make sure they partition among them. Alberta and B.C. let patients find out the wait times of surgeons by name, while Saskatchewan, Ontario and Nova Scotia provide information only down to the level of the hospital or clinic. And there are key philosophical differences in the approach to sharing how quickly surgery and other procedures should happen. Ontario's cardiac network, for instance, has its



HOW TO BE AN INFORMED PATIENT

B.C.: www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/lookon/SurgicalWaitTimes
 Alberta: www.health.alberta.ca/lookon/waittimes and their [Wait List Registry](http://www.waitlistregistry.com)
 Saskatchewan: www.sask.ca/surgery/carelinkonWaitTimeInformation
 Ontario: www.on.ca/en/lookon/waitinglistscardiac
 Nova Scotia: www.gov.ns.ca/health/lookonWaitTimes

postpone recommended wait times for a range of heart cases, but the Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network lays out within three weeks for all types of care—within 24 hours for the top priority cases, three to six weeks for those rated as urgent, and a six-week "more than six weeks" for elective ones. Saskatchewan Health Minister John Nilson says that's better than any other province. "Right now we are the only province that has our indicators, our benchmarks, our targets, out there," he says. "As each of us work with

this, we'll end up with common benchmarks across the country."

But how well that move to common standards (they signed with Prime Minister Paul Martin, the premiers promised to "establish comparable indication of access to health care professionals, diagnostic and treatment procedures, with a report to their citizens to be developed by all jurisdictions by Dec. 31, 2005") Critics say that while

provinces are separately making progress, it's hard to see much sign of coordination. "Every province is doing work," says Dr. Ruth Glickson-Nolan, an Edmonton pediatric cardiologist and the Canadian Medical Association's president. "But there's no national or interprovincial progress. We don't have common indicators to be able to compare from province to province." The case for moving away from patients being forced to figure out how to get care is key to managing wait times—would be easier to make if everyone had common parameters could be made among private and public.

While critics point out the shortcomings of what's being put on the new sites as far, enthusiasts are looking ahead to much more information coming online in the future. "The wait times are just the beginning," Hudson says. "What will eventually happen is that you'll know the infection rates for each hospital, you'll know the readmission rates for each hospital, you'll know the elective rates for each hospital. Wait time is only one find on the dashboard—you need the whole dashboard." If he's right, patients who have felt like mere passengers in the health care system might soon be turning into drivers. **D**

DOCTORS MAY HAVE TO BE MORE OPEN WITH PATIENTS. IT'S A 'NEW MENTALITY.'

The Truth Needs No Translation



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NOT SO FAST

And how's Ottawa doing on the Dec. 31 deadline for wait guidelines? Well, um...

TO HEAR federal Health Minister Ujal Dosanjh tell it in the House last week, the task of setting firm guidelines for how long Canadians should wait for surgeries and diagnostic scans sounded right on track. Last fall, the Prime Minister and the provinces signed a deal promising to set those targets in five areas—cardiac and cancer surgery, eye operations and joint replacements, along with scans like MRIs—by Dec. 31, 2005. “That deadline is no

establish benchmark,” Dosanjh said when pressed at Question Period on the wait-times issue. “No government has the option not to do it.” But what exactly did he mean by it? Anyone who assumes he means final national standards for the important procedures on that so-called Big Five list might be in for a disappointment. The top federal official on the file suggests the benchmarking work is only beginning, not nearing a conclusion. “I think what’s really coming at the end of December,” Dr. Brian Ford, Pres-

ident of the Canadian Medical Association, “is a starting point for benchmarks.”

Ford was appointed by Martin only in July to spearhead Ottawa’s talks with the provinces on wait times. The problem, he said, is that the scientific evidence needed

to back up benchmarks often doesn’t exist. According to last fall’s deal, they must be “evidence-based”—not just goals politicians deem acceptable or targets that grew out of a loose

consensus among doctors. Ford notes that some firm benchmarks are possible, likely including goals for how quickly to perform heart surgery, an area that has been stricken in draft. But for many other major treatments, medical opinion varies more. How quickly does a baby boomers with a chronic knee issue need to get an MRI? At what point in the gradual deterioration of a pregnant woman’s placenta is a cesarean section warranted?

These are valid points of debate among experts and concerned patients. But in the political arena, such fine details might be lost. Martin and the provinces insisted they had accomplished something historic when they signed the September 2004 accord. The 10-year, \$4.1-billion

plan to fulfill Martin’s grand pledge to fix health care for a generation was touted as different from previous big cash deals because this time the provinces had agreed to carved-in-time dates for action. And the year-end deadline for setting “evidence-based benchmarks for medically acceptable wait times” is the first failure to make good could be a political disaster. Dosanjh tempers short of admitting that might happen, but in an interview he dialed down expectations. “There may be a pan-Canadian consensus and the ability to have at least some benchmarks in all of the five priority areas,” he said. “This deadline is about making sure we make our best efforts.”

So more than a year after the first ministers signed their pact, bracing talk of deadlines and details is giving way to more muted reassurances about best efforts and starting points. Critics say Ottawa made a fundamental mistake by not holding back new money from the provinces until they accomplish what was promised. Instead, \$5.1 billion in new federal funding earmarked to help cut waiting lists will flow no matter what the provinces do. Dosanjh defends Martin’s decision not to make cash contingent on action. “This is not like an ordinary contract with penalties and processes to determine who gets what at what time,” he said. “The first ministers entered into an extraordinary contract which is based on trust and a common belief that we all want to travel in the same direction.”

The country’s top lobbyist for physicians isn’t buying it. Dr. Ruth Collins-Nelson, president of the Canadian Medical Association, says the provinces are grabbing the cash and shifting their attention to other priorities, notably their recent emphasis on schools and skills. “There’s no question that the provinces they’ve depleted the bank account,” she says. “The federal AGM of health, and they are now at the AGM of education,” she said.

Remarkably, many federal and provincial officials say their wait-times strategy was not changed much by last June’s landmark Supreme Court of Canada decision, which seemed to open the door to more private care. The court found that as long as waits for publicly insured services are unacceptably long, Quebec was violating its provincial charter of rights by denying patients the



Health Minister Dosanjh may have some quick explaining to do come year’s end

option of buying private health insurance. It gave the provincial governments 12 months to make reforms in line with the ruling. In a recent speech, Quebec Health Minister Philippe Couillard said he’s open to a European-style system with parallel public and private systems. “Are the French, British and Scandinavians backward?” Couillard asked. “If it’s between the European and the U.S. model, I’d rather go toward the western European model.”

But policy makers outside Quebec aren’t taking that cue. Ford and the court’s decision reflected “the view of Canadians that wait times are too long,” and the solution is to boost spending and better manage the public system, not to allow a private one that he argues wouldn’t care how anyone. And there are signs of progress in public care. Dr. Alan Hadjilov, the neurosurgeon heading Ontario’s wait-times strategy, has headed \$240 million by the province to cut wait lists. Health ministers approach offering private care for boosting the number of priority procedures they performed. For instance, \$750 million over cost covered over what they were already doing. He says the cash has bought the province 17 per cent more cardiac procedures, 28 per cent more hip and knee surgeries, 16 per cent more cancer

operations, and 41 per cent more CT and MRI scans. “It’s amazing what you can do with a bag of money,” Hadjilov says.

And huge sums are being poured into health care across the country. The discouraging thing is that sometimes even a lot doesn’t seem nearly enough. “Particularly on the orthopaedic side, we’re facing a demand curve that’s huge,” said B.C. Health Minister George Abbott. “We’re only holding the wait times stable in hips and knees—we’re not improving them, even though the number of procedures is going up dramatically.” The solutions might come through long-term changes in the way doctors work. In Winnipeg, Dr. Eric Fisher, an orthopaedic surgeon, is doing so great a volume of hip and knee replacements a day, about double what’s normal, by starting on the second case of the operating room instead of waiting in one. An assistant gets his patients ready, time-consuming work surgeons are usually involved in. “When I’m finished in the first room,” Fisher says, “I can walk onto the second room, everything’s ready to roll, and I pick up the knife.”

But such innovative new ways of working will take many years to change the system. In the meantime, with pressure from an aging population and increasing demand for care, as would politicians are reluctant to get locked into benchmarks they might well have a hard time meeting. But benchmarks are what they promised. From now until Dec. 31, the scramble is on to see what they can deliver.

ON THE WEB Follow us on provincial targets. Public vs. private care. Read John Gidde’s full interview with Dr. Ford. www.nicholascole.ca/health

CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

Turns out we don't hate Americans after all. In fact, on the big issues, we think a lot alike, says a new poll.

WE SCORN their activist foreign policy. We mock their folksy politicians and sneer at their crude anti-terrorist provincialism. We resent their overwhelming cultural influence, and bristle at being treated as an afterthought. We've squabbled over everything from trade and the environment to security and foreign relations. And more and more, conventional wisdom holds, we are two cultures going our separate ways. The moderate and sophisticated North American nations, stuck next to an increasingly adolescent empire.

But, like most conventional wisdoms, much of it is plain wrong. Despite everything we've heard in recent years about our growing ideological divide, the United States and Canada and Americans want the two countries to get a whole lot closer in the years ahead. A new poll by Ottawa's SES Research, in conjunction with the University at Buffalo, suggests that, on a wide range of issues from national security to energy policy, Canadians and Americans want more co-operation, not less. And when it comes to our perceptions of each other, the two nations are still defined more by our similarities than our differences, and often don't live up to our shared stereotypes. Perhaps most remarkably, on many issues that supposedly divide us, Canadians think a lot like Americans do.

To those who've spent recent years on the front lines of Canada-U.S. diplomacy, this goodwill is really no surprise. "The fact of the matter is, there are thousands of things that go right with this relationship every single day. It's only the disputes that get the publicity," says Paul Celkucki, the former

U.S. ambassador to Canada. "It doesn't really matter what the dispute of the day might be. Our ties are too deep, we're too interconnected, and we're too dependent on each other to do anything other than continue to work together. That's what we always do."

Nowhere is that more true than on questions of security and security. Most people agree: Canadians are deeply suspicious of the U.S.-led war on terror, and that the war in Iraq has driven a wedge between the two countries when it comes to questions of national security. But that divide doesn't show up in the most recent polling numbers. According to the SES survey of just over 1,000 Americans and 1,100 Canadians taken in late August, citizens of both countries advocate a more integrated system of military and contingency response. Asked if Canada and the U.S. "should be moving toward greater and closer co-operation" on issues of national security, 69 per cent of Canadians and 73 per cent of Americans wanted a "much closer" or "somewhat closer" relation-



Bush and Martin: what a necessity there is now just to be looking toward the President

ship. When asked specifically about anti-terrorism measures, Canadians are 74 per cent in favour of closer collaboration, compared to 86 per cent in favour in the U.S.

"We're of one mind on security," says Marlene Eagle, associate professor of political science at the University at Buffalo, and one of the people who first conceived of the study to track public attitudes toward continental integration. "What shows up clearly is that we share a great deal, including an interest in creating a secure North America."

And yet, that shared consensus has not been reflected either in media coverage or in Canadian policy in recent years. Instead, Canada-U.S. relations have been defined by a series of disagreements, ranging from the party to the profound. There was the massive media speculation post 9/11 that the terrorist hijackers may have entered the U.S. through Canada. The prime minister's

NATIONAL SECURITY

Should the United States and Canada be moving toward greater and closer co-operation on national security, or should they be maintaining separate national security policies and priorities?
 Canada: 69% much or somewhat closer
 U.S.: 73% much or somewhat closer

top-goesperson referred to U.S. President George W. Bush as a "monster." A Liberal businessman publicly said he hated all Americans and denied them as "barbarians." Then there were the more substantive disputes over Canadian beef and softwood lumber. Last week, Prime Minister Paul Martin travelled to New York and called the U.S. positions on softwood lumber "senseless" and fired over plans to drill for oil in Alaska's wildlife refuge. Speeches like this play well with many Canadian voters, but they do little to repair relations with a White House still infuriated over Canada's refusal to support the war in Iraq, and Martin's reaction to the U.S. missile defence plan.

All this acrimony seems to have fuelled a decline in Canadians' regard for their neighbour. In 1999, an Emerson poll found 71 per cent of Canadians held a favourable view of the United States. In 2003, a survey for the Pew Global Attitudes Project found that had fallen to 63 per cent. And this year, the



THAT PASSPORT THING? 'IN BOTH COUNTRIES, POLITICS SOMETIMES TRUMPS POLICY.'

—PHIL CLAIUCCI, former U.S. ambassador to Canada

number was down to 59 per cent. In late 2004, a poll by COMFAB for Global Television found 48 per cent of respondents felt more "into America" than "into Canada."

That, in turn, has brought on a wave of anxiety among Canada's political and business elites fearing the breakdown of lacrosse

States. Based on years of polling data, Adams assembled a compelling portrait of two countries going their separate ways. As Canada is becoming more liberal, progressive, secular and liberal, the U.S. is becoming more rigid, unliberal, religious and conservative, he argued.

Adams stands by that analysis, but adds that just because the countries' values are diverging in many ways, it doesn't mean our common interests are disappearing. And most Canadians understand that distinction, he says. For that reason, Adams remains optimistic about the friendship despite what he sees as deepening rifts. "We're right next door, so there are many things that we just have to get along on," Adams says.

"George W. Bush isn't going out to bed, like a 357 Magnum and then blowing off his own tail. We're one of those rats, and he knows that. Besides, there's nothing contradictory about two nations with divergent cultures still wanting close collaboration on many of our mutual interests, he says. Such relationships exist all over the world.

But, he nevertheless, declines poll results provide some reason to question whether people on either side of the 49th parallel really are growing apart. For instance, in spite of widespread anger in Canada over the illegal deportation of Canadian citizen Maher Arar from the U.S. to Syria, and deep suspicion over the indefinite detention of suspected militants at Guantanamo Bay, Canadians still generally see the U.S. as a land of similar values. Asked in the SES survey which country is most like their own interests of human rights, Canada ranked the U.S. more than any other (43 per cent of Americans picked Canada (51 per cent) as their human rights role model. Britain finished second in both cases.

While Canadian commentators have tried to do portray the United States as scrambling on international consensus in Iraq and elsewhere, Canada is generally presented as the consensus-building advocate of soft power. But it seems that stereotype is misleading, at least too simplistic. SES asked Canadians and Americans if their country should "follow its own interests, even if it leads to conflict with other nations." Canadians were more willing than Americans to step on toes in pursuit of self-interest. In fact, 60 per cent of Canadians said self-interest should guide decision making, compared to just 51 per cent of Americans. "What this should tell us is that stereotypes are just confusing, and neither country knows the other as well as we think we do," says Dwight Messer, senior partner at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington and a former U.S. diplomat. "Of course, countries should

ANTI-TERRORISM

Should the United States and Canada be moving toward greater and closer co-operation on anti-terrorism measures, or should they be maintaining separate policies and priorities?

Canada: 74% much or somewhat closer
U.S.: 86% much or somewhat closer

pursue their own interests. The good thing, when it comes to the U.S. and Canada, is that our interests tend to coincide pretty well."

OUR INTERESTS seems to coincide just as much on substantive economic issues. For months, newspapers have been screaming about high gas prices, and free-trade opponents have warned that lost trade in energy has exacerbated the spike in Canadian pump prices. And yet Canadians are almost as enthusiastic as Americans about the prospect

for closer integration of the continent's energy market. The SES survey found that 85 per cent of Canadians and 89 per cent of Americans think it's "very important" or "somewhat important" to develop an integrated energy policy to reduce North America's reliance on Middle Eastern oil.

Adams, however, isn't convinced that any of this represents significant meetings of our national roads. It's easy, he says, for people to agree on self-interest like "greater co-operation." But introduce thornier issues such as defending national sovereignty and respect for international treaties and you quickly run across more contentious territory. For instance, support for a North American energy policy seems entirely reasonable at first blush, but "if you include in that question issues like the Kyoto protocol and NAFTA, you'd get a different answer," Adams says. "For every one of these questions, I want to ask another 10."

It can also be difficult to identify just how much of Canada's purported animosity toward America is actually just old Redding toward George W. Bush and the current White House administration. A POLLARA survey published in February 2004 found that 67 per cent of Canadians had a generally positive attitude toward the U.S., but 58 per cent said they disapproved of the current President. By the same token, polls in early 2004 showed the majority of Canadians supported the before-and-after defense plan but as time wore on, and the Bush administration appeared to be exerting pressure on the Liberal government in Ottawa, polls showed the other way. By the time Paul Martin announced he would not participate in public opinion surveys again in the plan, and Martin's decision was overwhelmingly endorsed. Does this suggest deepening animosity toward our ally, or is it simply a reaction against a particular political style?

Collectors, for one, believe Canadian and American public opinion has been dominated by media coverage. But if Canadian media have been guilty of exaggerating the level of discord, they are not alone. In the days following 9/11, many American news outlets, including the renowned CBS newsmagazine show 60 Minutes, hyped a suggestion that Canada's liberal immigration policies and lax border controls represented a serious gap in U.S. homeland security. The "blame Canada" chorus in the U.S. Congress was largely responsible for pass-

ing through new restrictions on visitors, including a policy requiring Canadians to have a passport to enter the U.S. by the end of 2007.

But again, this pervasive anti-Canadian theme in the U.S. media has fueled as much suspicion among the American public. For most Americans, at least those who have any opinion at all, Canada is still harder to fear than Hong Kong. And while asked what country's visitors should be most closely questioned when entering the U.S., only six per cent named Canada. At the same time, citizens of both countries seem

INTEGRATED ENERGY POLICY

How important or unimportant is it for the United States and Canada to work together to develop an integrated energy policy to reduce dependence on Middle East oil?

Canada: 85% very or somewhat important
U.S.: 89% very or somewhat important

eager to collaborate if it means more safety in the SES poll, 75 per cent of Canadians and 81 per cent of Americans said there should be "much closer" or "somewhat closer" co-operation on issues of border security.

So why the agency in Congress to clamp down on America's northern border?

"In both countries politics sometimes trumps policy," Claiucci says, pointing to Canada's decision to sit on its missile defense. "There will inevitably be disagreements and disputes, but, bottom line, we're going to keep working together because it's in each of our national interests to do so. This is probably one of the most amazing relationships between two countries anywhere. That doesn't get going because it's not controversial, but it's the truth."

Dwight Messer echoes that. It's not terribly interesting to report that the Canada-U.S. relationship is chugging and flowing, much as it has for the past hundred years. It's not very dramatic to report that the disputes are marginal and generally the result of bad diplomacy as opposed to bad policy. But that's the truth, dramatic or not, he says. "Conflict makes for great stories," he says. "And there are some conflicts. We don't always see eye to eye, and we shouldn't. But each side of this little dispute is like a flash of lightning illuminating the night." As for those who see a larger cultural rift forming? "I think that's largely nonsense." ■

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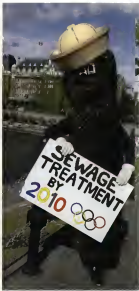
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FROM SEA TOSTINKING SEA

It's been called 'unacceptable' and 'a national disgrace.' So why does Canada keep dumping raw sewage into its oceans and rivers? **BY KEN MACQUEEN**



VICTORIA'S charming view of effluent does not look as awful as you'd think, considering the unholy reputation that precedes it. It's just breakfast time, and Jim McFarland, environmental services operations manager for the Capital Regional District, shows off the end result as the surge hits the Clover Point pumping station on Vancouver Island's south coast. It's possible, watching the volume of flow through this station, to chart the rhythm of the B.C. capital: the 7:30 a.m. swell of morning ablution and breakfast cleanup, another

peak, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., for the supper hour. In the chaos of a hot breakfast event, the noise of TV commercials can be charted by the flood of waste through the giant pumps and the kilometre-long ocean outfall pipe both heaved at nearly 100 m/s. Few things are so elemental, so essential, and unavoidable. It explains the passion that sewage—such a slowly and unforgiving topic—can generate. This is especially true here, where it is dumped, untreated, into the Juan de Fuca Strait. The raw waste itself resembles weak, greyish tea, and throws off a muted scent of compost and a cloying whiff of decay. "It's 99.9 per cent water and 0.1 per cent solids," says McFarland, whose responsibilities include the region's sewer system. "We use a lot of water to wash our waste away." The entire Pacific Ocean, in fact.

Canadians generate an impressive three trillion litres of sewage annually: a pint of water, human waste and the pathogens it can contain (such as cholera, typhoid and hepatitis B), microorganisms, toxic chemicals, heavy metals and expensive pharmaceuticals. The waste threatens drinking water, as well as recreational users, aquaculture and fisheries. "Municipal sewage is the largest source of pollution discharged to surface water bodies in Canada," warns the Canada Council.

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(Clockwise from top left) Wastewater about raw sewage in a creek in Saint John, N.B.; environmental steward at Mt. Flattie, a source catches only large solids in Victoria

movement" across the country. Modern developed countries should not be dumping untreated sewage, he said in a blunt series of interviews in Victoria this July. In the meantime, says the Sierra Club in the third edition of its National Sewage Report Card, released last fall, "This significant environmental health issue has been relegated to the backwash standards of individual municipalities."

He pointed about covers in Calgary, Edmonton, parts of Hamilton, and Windsor, B.C., have world-class sanitary levels of treatment that reduce sewage to clear effluent and disinfected compost safe enough to use as fertilizer. At the other end of the scale, St. John's, Nfld., and Halifax are building treatment plants after years of using their grossly polluted harbours as sewage dumps. Montreal flushes a total of 900 billion litres of sewage into the St. Lawrence River annually. Most of it goes through primary treatment—but some 3.6 billion litres enter the river as raw sewage. Even Saint John, N.B., with one primary treatment facility and two secondary treatment plants, emits 6 billion litres of untreated effluent a year into the Saint John River and the Bay of Fundy.

Then there is Victoria, as gentled and phonetic as a provincial capital in Canada. Has a city of afternoon tea, of farms and carriage rides, of meadows and pleasant walks along the harbour. It is a city of white washing town, of waterfront cafes—and a capital region that pees into the ocean some 34 billion litres of raw sewage a year. It pees without shame. Indeed, it pees with pride, convinced it is on the side of the environmental angels. "We think we're doing the right and responsible thing," says Dennis Blackwell, chairwoman of the local waste management committee of the regional government. Montreal rated an F on the

sewage export, but a dumping Western fund rejected Victoria "suspended" for its refusal to see a need to change.

The bulk of the region's sewage—the waste of about 200,000 residents as well as businesses—is only spread to remove solids larger than its redmire and flammable object like tarpon a placation and condense. It's then pumped through two outfall pipes running more than 60 m deep and a 10-kilometer winding currents of the mist. There, it diffuses "without causing environmental harm," says the regional district. Or, at times when it makes an obvious return up the food chain—starting as a beetle

ring it through treatment plants like the rest of the civilized world. "Dolores," goes the motto they seem to share, "is not the solution to pollution." That's the message from James Skowro, a scumlike piece of vacuum as you'll ever meet. "It's time for us to stop treating the ocean like a big toilet and preserve it for the health of future generations," he says. Skowro, 35, a chemist known as these parts as Mr. Flore, a cheerful, bald-headed, two-metre-tall piece of pooh.

We're dining at a Victoria waterfront brew pub, where, essentially, he's not in uniform, a brown velvet full-body costume that leaves little doubt as to Mr. Flore's essential or-

Suzuki Environmental Foundation have spent years making the case for restoration. Never have they generated the kind of media offensive POCF manages with bad puns and barroom humor. "The thing that makes politicians move the quickest is when you embarrass them," says John Warring, a staff scientist at the Sierra Fund's Vancouver headquarters. "I think Mr. Flore is doing a great job of that." That may explain Blackwell's pitched look when the issue of Mr. Flore's views. "They have certainly found a vehicle that will generate publicity for them," she says.

The true A talking head is barely enough symbol of Victoria's incoherence to gener-

'MUNICIPAL SEWAGE IS THE LARGEST SOURCE OF POLLUTION TO SURFACE WATER BODIES'

for the colors of sea worms and swimming scallies congregating at the outfalls, and ending in the fugacious nose load carried by evident pods of killer whales.

Blackwell's recent regional politics note that a decade ago to fight for sewage treatment, only to be countered that the small's tidal currents serve as a natural, environmentally sound and cost-effective alternative. There are "lots of ways to solve this problem," she says. While the practice is known to offend some across the street in Wh's right state, she takes a pragmatic view. "The amount our tourism industry would be putting out in taxes to pay for our treatment is less than it loses by the few conflicts or whatever that say, 'I won't come because of this.' Moreover, unlike land-based treatment plants, there is no environmentally dubious waste sludge to dispose of, she notes. "It's uncontaminated—you just take it and put it in the ocean and don't worry about it." What critics don't consider, she adds, "is what are we going to do with it if you don't put it in the ocean?"

Well, against the many environmental groups gauging up to force an end to the Victorian era of waste management, by nar-

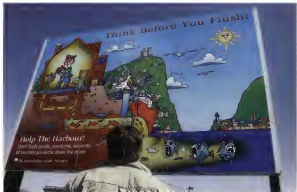
gins. "So tell me," I ask, as the beer arrives, "when you were a little boy did you dream of growing up to be..." Skowro flashes the thought. "A little piece of pooh?" No, he corrects with a subversive grin, he did not. He's a one-time worker for the Western Canada Wilderness Committee who resumed university studies this fall to become a teacher. He was a founding member last year of People Opposed to Outfall Pollution—the resulting acronym being no accident. Like others in POCF, who have a singular gift for guerrilla marketing, he says he is motivated by disgust and embarrassment at Victoria's sewage dumping.

POCF's now pop up at events, from parties to political meetings, making light-hearted use of themselves, while hoping to shame the region into action. They'll run Mr. Flore for mayor of Victoria this fall, generating yet more publicity. The irony is, you catch more flies with honey than vinegar, though Mr. Flore draws flies in any event. "He's a sweet, lovable bear," says Skowro. "He doesn't want to harm anybody, he just wants people to treat their sewage and stop dumping toxins down the drain."

Activists from groups like the Sierra Legal, the Georgia Strait Alliance and the T. Buck

ner media hits as far away as South Africa. It's not a winning image for a tourism-dependent city, warns Skowro. Nor will it improve as the 2010 Winter Olympics approach, and the world media focus on the bathroom habits of the host province. Our meals arrive, Skowro has ordered half-bat. A local brown fish, it more truthfully "Thanks," he says, "for pointing that out."

SEWAGE TREATMENT is a complex and expensive issue, and Sierra has been trading with a series of report cards for more than a decade. Progress is often slow, and gradually making, says Warring. In the 1990s, Sierra filed several charges against the Greater Vancouver Regional District for dumping massive quantities of primary treated sewage in the Fraser River and the ocean. The charges, taken over by the provincial Crown, together with pressure from the federal Fisheries Department, forced upgrades to some of the region's treatment plants, says Warring. Two Vancouver area plants, however, still discharge sewage with only primary treatment, poisoning heavy chemicals and toxics into the ocean. Overflowing sewage spill as much as 22 billion litres of storm and



Waste water into Georgia Strait each year. Normally, in a coastal zone, as well as Montreal on the St. Lawrence River, that have the lowest levels of treatment. Such cities "have had the luxury of being able to dump where people don't see it," says Christopher Wilken, clean air and water program coordinator for the Georgia Strait Alliance.

Industrial-consumers with downstream obligations are forced to be more careful. No inland city is more lax than the Colquhoun, which notes an A- in Sierra's report. All of treatment before the highest, tertiary level of treatment before being discharged with a travel time. Re-using sludge in bio-sludge are recycled into fertilized soil. A sewer sewer below regulates industrial discharges, and there are commitments for even more upgrades. Edmonton also has century-old treatment and an enable A- rating. Alberta's two major cities make their B-C neighbors look positively Third World by comparison.

Toronto and Ottawa—both rated B—in the report—have secondary levels of treatment and intensive waste reduction strategies. Ottawa converts volatile organic matter in its sewage into acetone, which is burned onsite to generate electrical and thermal energy. Toronto, while still plagued with

Sign about St. John's harbor cleanup warns fish have been injured and tide lesions.

sewage overflow into Lake Ontario and the Don River, was ranked by the Sierra Fund for one of the toughest sewer age bylaws in the country. It restricts what industrial users discharge into city sewers, limiting the risk that such treatment plants.

Comparing the waste of cities is difficult proposition without coastal standards in place. Nor is consistent logic applied to enforcing what limited environmental action are available. Winnipeg, for instance, faced a fine of up to \$300,000 when it was charged under the federal Fisheries Act after an open valve at a city treatment plant accidentally poured raw sewage into the Red River in 1992. The charge, for spilling a substance "deleterious to fish and aquatic life," were stayed just after the Crown admitted at trial there was insufficient evidence of criminal neglect. Why, then, does Victoria owe charges for doing criminally what Winnipeg did accidentally? "We don't know," concedes Sierra's Warring. "It's just a lack of consistency."

That may change during Dink's tenure as environment minister. Warring, among

other environmentalists, supports Victoria was spared from prosecution because David Anderson—the city's veteran Liberal MP and a federal fisheries and fish conservation minister from 1997 until 2004—supports the region's ocean dumping. There is "no environmental advantage" to spending hundreds of millions on a treatment plant for Victoria, Anderson told the Commons in 1999. "In the ocean, there is the possibility of allowing the natural effect of heavily oxygenated sea water to treat sewage." Dink, however, says such arguments are based on old science. He argued this July he'll consider charges under the Fisheries Act for communities that don't essentially meet their ways. His comments prompt a franchise's defense of the status quo by Victoria's daily newspaper, the *Times Colonist*. "[Dink] did not understand how we, living in this paradise, with our reputation as a leading city of the environment, could be dumping raw raw sewage into the Juan de Fuca Strait," it editorialized. "He's not impressed when we tell him that Nature has provided us with a natural toilet, whose flushing system disperses our raw sewage far and wide, unlike places like Halifax, where they're putting millions to



HALIFAX: HELP FOR A HARBOUR

HALIFAX AND ENVIRONS may be blessed with the world's second-largest natural harbour, but there's nothing natural about the abuse it's been subjected to. Visitors to Black-lick Beach, in Halifax's south end, pick their way among washed-up banjo amplifiers. Capt. Tim Grogan of the 25-m-tall ship *Marlin* looks to get "oillet debris" on a regular basis. "It's part of the risk of sailing here in Halifax," he says. Mayor Peter Kelly, 65, is old enough to recall childhood swimming lessons in the harbour. It's not something he'd care today. "There has been a lot of talk about floatables," he says. "About offensive issues along the shore." For too long—its almost 66 billion litres of raw sewage pour into the harbour annually—that's all there was, he concedes. "Talk, talk, talk, talk, talk."

Finally, after false starts and tough financial negotiations with the provincial and federal governments, construction is underway on a \$333-million sewage treatment system. "It's done well about time," says Jerry MacKenzie of the Ecology Action Centre. "They have literally been talking about cleaning up the harbour for about 50 years."

The so-called Halifax Solutions Project calls for an "advanced" primary treatment

system to filter and settle out most solids. Untraveller light will kill bacteria before effluent is released into the harbour. The resulting sludge will be sold as fertilizer for sod farms and other non-food crops. While advocates want the system eventually upgraded to a higher level of secondary treatment, Kelly says the city is building what it can afford. Part of the municipal share comes from \$65 million



from a water surcharge, which will continue. When the system's three plants are operating in 2006, a bout 97 per cent of the region's homes and businesses will get treatment, says project manager Ted Tim. "It is a very major step for the municipality."

Gordon Fidler, an environmental scientist with the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, says water quality will take time to improve, but offensive odours and those dreaded floatables "will be gone within a short period of time." Fidler spent years consulting on the cleanup. Now, like the mayor, he is anxious to see the harbour regain some of its former glory.

SUSAN LEBLANC

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THE SILENT TREATMENT

In Paul Martin's Ottawa, the less said about economic issues, the better

AN AMAZING THING happened last month. Even more amazing, it happened twice. Two major developed countries held election campaigns that focused primarily on economics and business. The countries in question, Germany and Japan, were sharply divided over questions of confidence, growth and progress. And, not only did party leaders face these debates, they asked their caucus on them. In this country—where politicians handle such issues like live explosives—it was all rather startling to watch.

Consider Germany: the two main parties presented starkly different visions for economic

reform and for tackling its brutal unemployment rate, which remains above 11 per cent. The race between incumbent Gerhard Schröder and challenger Angela Merkel ended up in a dead heat, leaving them to form a "grand coalition" equally of pushing ahead with an ambitious restructuring of the nation's social insurance. Among the ideas up for debate: a flat-income tax, increases to the controversial value-added tax, and sweeping changes to Germany's notoriously rigid labour laws, which discourage firing.

One week earlier in Japan, Junichiro Koizumi led his Liberal Democratic Party to a landslide victory after demanding a mandate for massive economic reform. Koizumi's plan is to privatize the nation's sprawling US\$1-trillion postal system, which includes more than 400,000 workers and acts as a central player in its corrupt financial sector. His opponents in parliament stymied his plans, so the prime minister called a snap election, taking a bold play directly to the people.

Now try, for a second, to picture Paul Martin taking that kind of stand on economic reform. Can't see it? That's because fiscal issues have become this country's most powerful political taboo. The Liberals will say trade, taxation and growth are important. But make a loud noise, and they'll say snap screaming, just like weak cabinet ministers told the Globe and Mail that rebranding productivity is now a top government priority. But ministers said they still intend to sell the idea to Canadians in a way that "doesn't frighten people." Note to cabinet: It's not the public that's afraid, it's you. The latest intention to tell them the govern-

ment's abaya of procrastination is the most number of corporate tax cuts, scheduled to take effect in 2005. They were in Martin's February budget, but were sacrificed to buy the temporary support of the NDP. The Liberals promised the cuts would be back, but now, with an election looming, politics has again trumped policy. The tax cuts are off the table until after the next election.

Whether or not you support the tax cuts really isn't the point—there are compelling points on either side. One could reasonably argue that tax rebates for technology investment, or even targeted gas tax relief, would make more sense than an across-the-board cut to corporate income tax. But don't hold your breath waiting for that debate to happen. The feds would rather not talk

Finance Department has missed successive deadlines, and last month Finance Minister Ralph Goodale announced yet another postponement. Now it appears a policy won't be tabled until well into next year and perhaps as late as 2007—almost a decade after the issue first arose. Here again there's an opportunity to have an important debate on the future of our most problematic, but the Liberals want nothing to do with arguments.

"I just don't think it's appropriate to throw this very important question, that has to do with the financial system of the country, into a political free-for-all," Goodale said.

Think about that for a minute. This issue is simply too important to discuss quietly. And yet, as long as the government delays its ruling, bank mergers are effectively banned, and the Liberals aren't saddled with the onerous responsibility of explaining why. How tidy.

If you're wondering how the latest cut in corporate income tax is going to work out, listen to the silence emanating from the bank merger file. The tax treatment for corporate trusts is a critical issue. On one hand, they have stimulated investment in a

host of low-growth businesses. On the other hand, they're a potentially crippling drain on the tax system. But for now, most Canadians wouldn't know a corporate trust if they found one in their soup, and Ottawa is happy to keep it that way until a quiet compromise can be found—preferably one that doesn't invite too much discussion.

There is a splendid irony in all this. Back in 1993, Kim Campbell's political career unravelled when she said election campaigns are a bad time to debate serious issues. Little did anyone know that the Liberals would soon take Campbell's approach to absurd extremes. Not only have complex ideas disappeared from the campaign trail, news days in Ottawa it's never a good time to tackle a difficult question.

Send Steve March's e-mail, "All Business," at www.enr.ca/05/05/march



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Politics | BY JOAN BRYON

'EXILE' FOR SAME-SEX SUPPORT

Will Catholic MPs have to toe the line, or else?

POLITICIANS NORMALLY don't welcome being singled out for public criticism. Yet Charlie Angus is actually hoping he'll continue to be the biggest target for the Roman Catholic Church's wrath over legislation of same-sex marriage. "I'm a Catholic in exile," says the New Democratic MP for Ontario's Timmins-James Bay area. "I wouldn't want that to happen to any other MPs and their families. I'd prefer to be the sad anomaly."

Angus has been denied communion by his parish priest since affirming his support for same-sex marriage last January. A former Catholic school trustee and choirman, he no longer feels welcome at his local church. His wife and three young daughters don't go anymore either, the youngest missing her first communion as a result. And what happened to Angus could soon become the norm. Bishops from around the world are currently meeting in Rome for the first time under Pope Benedict XVI. Among other do-or-die matters, they are discussing whether the holiest sacrament—the taking of bread and wine symbolizing Christ's body and blood—should be withdrawn from Catholic politicians who fear Church sanctions.

The newly elected Pope will sail over the next two decades and eventually weigh in with his own views. Conservative Catholics, like Catholic Inglethorpe magazine editor Father Alphonsus de Valk, hope the Pontiff's staunch conservatism will lead to the past condemned "grossly immoral" politicians who support same-sex unions will soon face the withdrawal of communion.

Currently there's no consensus among Canadian bishops about how, or even if,

Catholic politicians should be disciplined for deviating from Church teachings. That's left to the discretion of parish priests. Here, Windsor-Toronto MP Joe Comartin, another NDPer who supported gay marriage, was banned from teaching marriage preparation classes and other church activities. Saskatchewan MP Tony Martin voluntarily stopped reading at his church after deciding to vote for the legislation. But, unlike Angus, both Comartin and Martin continued to receive communion. No punishment appears to have been visited on either



Angus has been denied communion by his parish priest. The first speech of bishops under Pope Benedict might make such discipline mandatory.

Catholic MPs who supported same-sex marriage in a House vote last June that made Canada the fourth country in the world to legislate homosexual unions.

By de Valk's calculation, roughly 130 of Canada's 366 MPs are Catholic, including Prime Minister Paul Martin. Almost 100 of them voted for the bill. Controversial Calgary Bishop Fred Henry has said he wouldn't give communion to the Prime Minister and even suggested Martin could be excommunicated. Other bishops have contradicted Henry, and Martin's own parish priest, Father John Walsh, has said the PM still may be welcome to receive the sacra-

ment in his Montreal church. But the Pope's imprimatur would, de Valk hopes, make the discipline visited on de Valk the rule.

Whether that would compel Catholic politicians to toe the Church line, however, is debatable. "I'll go take communion with the United Church, for heaven's sake," scoffs Vancouver Liberal MP Hardy Fry. Toronto Liberal MP Maria Minna says she has disagreed with the Church on a number of issues—in handling of pedophile priests, its refusal to admit women to the priesthood, its stance on same-sex marriage—and has never docilely accepted every dictum from Rome. "If my faith depended entirely on the behaviour of the institution, I don't think we'd have too many Catholics left," she says, conceding that politicians "have a responsibility to the whole country," not just to their church.

But Comartin worries that moderate Catholics, who are already feeling alienated, will leave and start a splinter church if the Pope condemns dissenting communion to politicians like him. Moreover, if the Church is going to include liberal Catholics from communion over issues like gay marriage, where will it stop? And Angus questions how Rome would be able to punish giving the sacrament to conservative Catholics who support capital punishment in defiance of Church doctrine on the sanctity of life.

Ironically, Angus was a government supporter at the April installation of Pope Benedict, who will now determine whether he is only the first of many Catholic MPs to be denied communion. "God," Angus observes, "has a wonderful sense of humour." ■





THANKS FOR THE TALK

Our outgoing governor general reflects on what she'll remember most

WHEN I BECAME governor general, I received a letter from the mayor of Missis, N.B. He told me that their village had been named for Lord Missis, governor general at the turn of the 20th century, and that he had promised to come to see them. As he had never come, the mayor asked if I could be their first governor general to visit. The guy was filled with the majority of the people in this place, which had a 17th-century mill site and a Second World War veterans camp. To them, the governor general had come and I mattered.

The most meaningful part of my job as governor general was to be with people in

every part of this country and abroad—from Prince George to Hopedale, from Walkerton to Chetwynd, from Sarnego to Kibuli, an investment of time that rewarded me with an understanding of our contributions and an appreciation for our differences. We can't get that unless you spend

eight, 10 days in one province travelling by car across the most stunning landscape—in Saskatchewan, in the Namik region, in the Carpe. Taking more than a week for each trip allowed me the privilege of seeing people where they live. These visits were periods of high intensity, with typically one or seven different events a day—a breakfast, a meeting, a meeting at an Aboriginal cultural and counselling centre, a museum round table about citizen involvement, a ceremony to honour Caring

Canada. I always liked to pack as much into one day as possible because I was aware that the people of Minnesota or Tibet were willing to talk about their concerns, their apprehensions, to the person whose constitutional role is to witness and ensure that Canadian democracy, in manifestation of responsible government, is maintained. Not that I think the people who come to the many levels we hold in places like the armories in Regina, or the school zone in Inuit, thought this consciously. They turned out, sometimes 1,500 at a time, to meet us and by their presence let us know that they exist, as remind us that wherever people are in the country, they have their problems, their lives.

In Regis, Sask., I shared with 16-year-olds about the future of farming, only two of them thought they would ever take over their family farm. At our arrival in Sydney, the widow of a coal miner presented me with her husband's identification tag. Everywhere my husband, John Rolan,



Governor general Adrienne Clarkson and Aboriginal Elder in traditional dress

Sask., and I went, we had what we came to call "half conversations." We discovered how, normally, people don't talk to each other except in a noncommittal manner, or when there is a problem and interest groups decide to take it out verbally. We found we helped them to find what they had in common, not what separated them.

The lesson of these 10 years for me is that we need more of these conversations. We need to pay attention to each other. As we went from Moses just to Inuit to Inuit to Inuit to Inuit, we learned that wherever people are in the country, they have their problems, their lives.

rolled out before us. We stood with Sharon and Peter Raulin in the Cypress Hills, looking at land that has never been broken by the plough. All Canadians should see this, as they should see the North, the white desert of Tokyok and Kaskag. We went travel in our own country. We must value it as something real, not an abstract idea. We need to think of the past together, to feel that this is a real and united place.

My great-grandson Vincent Massey said that the role of the governor general is constitutionally conceived and culturally lived. Going to all parts of the country for extended periods is part of living our country culturally.

For what is in our consciousness that can be brought to the surface in order to make space for our real dreams is a country. Our land is not a rhetorical idea, it is a reality.

The people I have met across this country in our 300 community visits live their part of the whole which is Canada. Fundamentally Canada offers land, water and sky. We have come to inhabit this land not only by settling in it, but also through our imaginations.

So the memories and the people who have moved me have often

been outside the grand ceremonies the governor general is not a moving object regarded in a distant way, the office, and those who inhabit it, must understand, interpret and represent, as a true sense, everything we are: it is the whole, from being with the most marginalized to meeting presidents and kings. As governor general my memory came from Margaret Laurence, who felt there was "no wisdom except the passionate plea of caring." Try to feel in your heart's core, the reality of others' living among all Canadians has made me even more aware that we need to find that way toward each other, across the huge land that separates us physically but gives us our being spiritually. ■

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BETTER THAN BUSH

Suddenly, Republicans have a lot more time for Senator John McCain

FOR A BRIEF and heavily tense in 2000, it looked like we knew John McCain would ride his "Straight Talk Expense" campaign bus straight to the top of the Republican presidential ticket. Then his campaign crashed—he attacked two swing states as "forces of evil," among other interpretive misstatements—and by last year, conservatives thought him such a coward they barely looked when he was mentioned as a possible running mate to Democratic nominee John Kerry. But now the Republican power base is beginning to wonder about George W. Bush.

Federal spending and the deficit have exploded, and the President is promising hundreds of billions more to rebuild the Gulf Coast. Adding insult to conservative injury, Bush was handed two openings on the Supreme Court, but shied away from appointing a judge with an established conservative record. Discontent has reached such a pitch that at a recent press conference, Bush was asked if he is "still a conservative." Suddenly, John McCain, a self-described "pro life, pro family fiscal conservative and advocate of a strong defense," is beginning

McCain at the Republican National Convention in New York in August 2004

to look a whole lot better to those Republicans who were, more than anything else, smaller government and anti-abortion judges. And the Arizona senator, who is eyeing the 2008 presidential bid, is seeing the recent to engage in a quiet rapprochement.

The delicate cohabitation was on display last month when McCain was the honored guest at the Saturday Night Club—a periodic dinner date of conservative opinion makers

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Bush and McCain in 2008 recently, Bush was asked if he's "still a conservative?"

hosted by R. Emmett Tyrrell, the editor of *The American Spectator* magazine. Over two hours in Georgetown, since 40 guests, including columnists and bloggers, grilled the senator, who spoke of the need to tame the deficit, to postpone Bush's costly pending port drug plan, and to scale back a lavish transportation bill passed by the Republican Congress. He also offered to campaign on behalf of a law pushed by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger that would require unions to obtain union permission from members before spending their dues on political activity. McCain got glowing reviews. "He was extremely gracious," says Tyrrell, who did not support McCain in 2009 but is now planning to "put in a good word" for him in his magazine. "I think people are warming up to him."

If McCain's star is rising, it's being lifted by frustration over the explosion of govern-

ment spending. Bush's tax cuts (which conservatives support), spending has driven the federal deficit to a projected \$533 billion this year. A plan to cut that number in half flew out the window after the White House admitted that Gulf Coast reconstruction could eventually cost the federal treasury some \$32.6 billion. "It's going to cost whatever it costs," shrugged Bush. But many in his power base were fuming. "Karlina is the straw that breaks the camel's back," says Grover Norquist, head of the influential lobby group Americans for Tax Reform. "You will be able to say three years from now, 'Boy, was that a turning point.'"

Meanwhile, McCain has been "the single most vocal opponent of pork barrel spending for more than a decade now," says Chris Edwards, an economist at the Cato Institute, a Washington-based free-market think tank. And it's not just pork. When Bush earned

the scorn of many fiscal hawks by pushing for one of the biggest expansions of social spending in recent times—a port-drug

benefit for Medicare recipients expected to cost \$81.2 billion over the next 10 years—McCain was one of only nine Sen-

ate Republicans to vote against it, arguing it should be limited to low-income seniors. Social conservatives are finding a friend in McCain too. Faced with the historic chance to replace crucial swing voter Sandra Day O'Connor on the Supreme Court, Bush chose his White House counsel, Harriet Miers—a former Democrat and donor to the Al Gore campaign, who lacks the clear track record of the conservative legal philosophy the President had promised. It's all going Gary Bauer as "I told you so" moment. The head of the social conservative lobby group, American Values, he was one of the few Christian conservative leaders to endorse McCain in 2008 after himself dropping out of the race. The reason? He told *The New Yorker* magazine that he asked both McCain and Bush whether they would appoint pro-life candidates to the top court. Bush said he had no litmus test. McCain simply said yes.

McCain still has much work to do to convince hard-core conservatives he is one of them. He's been pushing for reductions in greenhouse gases, and this summer principal Senator Hillary Clinton in Alaska and the White House to investigate global warming. He has co-sponsored legislation with Senator Ted Kennedy to help someone undocumented immigrants. While he supported the decision to go to war in Iraq, he has blamed the generals on their failure to quell the insurgency, and has been leading critics of American treatment of detainees. And there is no underestimating the grudge that GOP senators bear for the strict regulations on campaign contributions he managed to impose with the McCain-Feingold law.

Grover Norquist, a longtime foe of the senator, predicts that in 2008 conservatives will turn to an experienced governor with a proven record on spending, such as Jeb Bush of Florida or Mark Sanford of South Carolina, who has repeatedly vetoed spending bills passed by a Republican legislature. Cato's Chris Edwards agrees, adding Virginia's senator and former governor George Allen to the list. GOP pols like Whit Ayres says conservative Republicans are still waiting to be convinced by McCain. "He has taken some steps, but he has not yet closed the sale," he says. One thing does seem certain—until our feelings that Bush has betrayed conservatism are likely to shape the race for the Republican nomination in 2008.

EXPLODING government spending is a flashpoint. "Both Houses of Congress have been very lax, and the President has been lax, and John has been serious about it."

very big and the President has been lax, and John has been serious about it," said Tyrrell. Bush has declined to veto a single spending bill passed by the Republican Congress—including those blocked by record numbers of "pork" projects slipped in by law-

makers without debate and outside the competitive granting process. The non-partisan group, Citizens Against Government Waste, downgraded a record 13,997 pork projects passed in the fiscal year 2005—at a cost of \$582.3 billion. And that did not include the highway bill passed this summer which featured thousands of \$500,000 "bridge to nowhere," with a span nearly that of the Gold-



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TICKETS FELL TO AN ALL-TIME LOW



Self-serve comes to travel

The steady trickle of business bookings to the online world has turned into a deluge. The proportion of online bookings tripled in 2004 versus traditional call centre bookings, and the issuing of paper tickets fell to an all-time low of only 6% from 24% in 2002. Air travel is now trading more like a commodity, with companies choosing the low-cost carrier 15% more often. On average, the survey said travellers saved \$167 (25%) on domestic tickets by booking online in 2005. "The reality is," says Ferrari, "the evolving nature of the online booking engines makes them easier to use than ever before."

Hotels follow supply and demand

Travellers paid an average of \$3 more per night for a hotel room in the first half of 2005, for an increase of 2%. In Canada, the touch was lighter at \$2, while visitors to the U.S. paid \$5 more

Average hotel rates had fallen 3% in 2004 as some hotels cut prices to bring back lagging travellers.

A hotel industry outlook prepared by hospitality industry consultants Pannell Kerr Forster of Toronto also predicts 3% growth in occupancy overall in Canada for 2005, with daily rates increasing by 2% to regain some of the rate erosion over the last two years. For 2006, PKF expects occupancy to rise another point and room rates to rise 2.5%.

Yet, PKF notes that positive growth versus the disastrous 2003 performance "is not something to write home about." Visits by U.S. citizens had declined 6% by the spring of 2005, although the domestic market seemed able to support continued growth. The company stands by its prediction, however, that the hotel sector will recover by 2008 to its record profitability levels of 2000.

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Back in the driver's seat

It costs about the same to rent a car this year as it did last year. That's a bit surprising after car rental days rocketed up 34% in 2004 and another 5% in 2005. Instead of responding to increased demand, U.S. rental rates remained consistent at \$48 and domestic rates stayed the same at \$43. Only international rates climbed by 7% largely due to taxes and miscellaneous fees.

Recovery complete

In the final analysis, the travel and hospitality industry appears nearly fully recovered and customers should expect to pay a little more in the coming years. Says BTI's Michele Ferrari: "We are definitely seeing travel come back."

LIGHTER LUGGAGE, COURTESY OF JET FUEL PRICES

Airlines are digging deeper into their pockets at the fuel pumps just like everyone else. The difference is that they can dig into passengers' pockets, too, and make them lose a little weight to boot.

Both Air Canada and WestJet Airlines bumped prices up twice during the summer, blaming escalating fuel costs. U.S. airlines often in unison have already raised prices at least eight times this year, although they don't generally announce their increases or cite a reason.

But when the average price of jet fuel sits at \$2.12 a gallon in New York, compared to \$1.27 a year ago, the math is plain. After all, fuel makes up 10% to 20% of airline operating expenses, according to the Air Transport Association.

WestJet and Air Canada are both hedging against rising fuel costs. WestJet announced in September that it had fixed a portion of its spending for September, October and November by buying 40%, 20% and 10%, respectively, of its anticipated fuel needs for those months in advance.

WestJet has also accelerated its retirement schedule of its less-efficient Boeing 737-200 aircraft.

FLY AT WILL

Airlines want you to travel more and, like it or not, Air Canada is leading the airlines in innovative pricing these days.

The rejuvenated carrier is turning airfare on its head with its "pass" system of fares that gives frequent travellers a package of flights at a discount.

The current portfolio contains the Rapidair pass between Toronto or Hamilton, and Ottawa or Montreal, the Western Canada pass for seven major cities of Western Canada to 26 Canadian destinations and four U.S. destinations (Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Portland, Ore.), and City passes from major Canadian



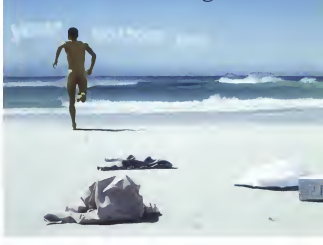
By March 2006, WestJet will fly only the "Thin, Generation" 737 aircraft, which are 30% more fuel efficient.

But Air Canada took a different approach to fuel efficiency – and it may affect you if you typically bring heavy samples or documentation on your business trips. The airline reduced allowable baggage weight to two bags at 23 kg (50 lb.) each from two bags at 32 kg (70 lb.). The maximum for a single bag became 32 kg (70 lb.), down from 45 kg (100 lb.).

Bags weighing between 23 kg and 32 kg are now subject to an excess baggage fee of \$35 for travel within North America and \$60 overseas.

Air Canada blamed "unrelenting record high fuel costs" for the change.

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cities to numerous destinations in Canada and the U.S. These passes offer 10 or 20 one-way trips at up to 30% off the regular Latitude business fares. The Flight Pass to the Sun presents a package of six flights between Toronto or Montreal to Florida, Las Vegas and Phoenix, Ariz., at up to 15% off full Tango Plus fares.

and could also be priced to package low-cost Tango and Fun fares, although with rules to restrict use to off-peak hours and dates. The concept could change the public view of air travel, says McKee. "Every person in Canada could eventually have an Air Canada flight pass."

Air Canada came up with the pass idea to

AIRLINES WANT YOU TO TRAVEL MORE AND, LIKE IT OR NOT, AIR CANADA IS LEADING THE AIRLINES IN INNOVATIVE PRICING THESE DAYS

Recently, Air Canada took the next step. For a limited 15-day period in September, it sold a new North America Unlimited Pass that gave holders the right to fly anywhere in North America—except to Alaska, Mexico or Hawaii—for the months of October and November. The pass cost \$7,000 plus GST, sufficient to pay off in about eight or ten round trips across the continent—about one a week.

"It's the first part of a new chapter in pass development," says Charles McKee, Air Canada's senior director of strategic marketing. He says the idea came from the telecom sector, although you can also see its origins in bus passes and even magazine subscriptions. "We believe we're like the telcos," says McKee. "We're now in the business of selling access to our network."

McKee says the subscription concept can logically be expanded to international routes, different durations (such as six-month passes)

bring some predictability to revenues and keep customers in its fold. But it also gives frequent travellers a level of cost control. And convenience, too, because they don't have to go shopping for the cheapest flight every trip.

The big question the industry will want answered is whether the passes bring in more travellers or influence people to take more trips. People are certainly buying them, says McKee, because between 15% and 20% of customers travelling on a short-haul, high-frequency route such as Calgary-Edmonton now use a pass. On Rapidair routes, it's 15%. And it's a sure-fire loyalty builder, because Air Canada's customer surveys show that certain passes give the airline a double-digit share increase in passenger travel—up to 98% in some cases.

"It may not be relevant to everyone," says McKee, "but it gets people thinking about what they can do with more air travel."

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Westin Hotels has the answer. You can work out right in your room.

One of the Starwood Hotels & Resorts brands, Westin introduced workout guest rooms at its 77 North American hotels in August. Europe and Asia will follow in January. At a cost starting at about \$20 more than market rates, these rooms come equipped with a Reebok Tomahawk XL Indoor Cycle or a Life Fitness Treadmill, along with a pilates balance ball, spinning DVDs and a shelf full of fitness equipment: dumbbells, resistance tubing and yoga mat.

Westin has spent more than \$20 million on the project since 2003, and it is leaving no loose threads. Teaming up with Runner's World magazine, Westin put local Runner's World maps in each workout room with recommended three- and five-mile running or walking routes in the hotel vicinity.

Also, under the RunWestin program at some hotels, guests can go on a guided three-mile run led by a "running concierge," with

complimentary bottled water and towels afterward. The program is now available at the Westin location in Edmonton.

Often, however, business travellers' minds must come back to business – and nothing speaks to business like high-speed Internet access. Many of the high-end chains now have it, but mid-range Holiday Inn of the InterContinental Hotels Group has now made high-speed available in every room.

Holiday Inn did some interesting research that spurred the move. It found that high-speed access is second after location on the list of factors that influences hotel choice for business travellers. It's also the hotel feature most likely to change travellers' minds about switching allegiances. And finally, it draws guests' attention to other business services such as business centres and meeting facilities.

Holiday Inn is now sponsoring television ads to promote the new service. Watch CFL football telecasts and the Grey Cup game in particular to catch them.



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THE VALUE OF LOYALTY

Have you ever considered what your loyalty points are actually worth in dollar terms?

The major loyalty programs now give you many alternatives when you spend your points—air travel, hotel stays, car rentals, merchandise and so on. You can even use your points to go to a NASA space camp or to top up your child's RESP.

In other words, your points are starting to behave like currency. You can use them to buy almost anything. So what are they worth?

Aeroplan is a good example of how versatile its miles have become. The Air Canada frequent flyer program recently added the six Starwood Hotels & Resorts brands (Sheraton, Western, Four Points, W Hotels, St. Regis and The Luxury Collection) as well as Hertz car rentals to its portfolio of mile-redemption partners. (It already had Amex and Delta Hotels.) That makes miles redeemable for hotels worldwide and car rentals in Europe. Aeroplan already issues 1.2 million flight tickets a year.

At the same time, Aeroplan is remaking its non-air reward redemption process,



Of course, everything depends on how much you had to spend to get the point. American Express is sweetening that process by teaming up with Aeroplan to launch the American Express Aeroplan Plus Corporate Platinum Card. For an annual fee of \$350, you (or your employees) get one Aeroplan mile for every dollar spent on the card. Throw in another \$100 and upgrade to get 1.25 miles for every dollar spent on purchases up to \$25,000 and 1.5 miles on purchases over \$25,000.

The card also gives you up to 4% cash back on Air Canada eligible air travel purchases and up to 5% back on purchases from partners such as Budget, Corporate Express, Fairmont hotels, Marriott Hotels and Park 'N Fly. On top of all that, it gets you into Air Canada's Maple Leaf Lounges and gives you management controls such as consolidated expense reports, employee spending limits and a dedicated Amex service unit. With deals like this, it's a lot "cheaper" to rack up Aeroplan miles, which makes those miles proportionately more valuable.

How does that compare with hotel loyalty programs? Let's take a couple of examples. At Best Western, the standard rate for a night at the Fallview in Niagara Falls, Ont., is \$100 or you can spend 800 Gold Crown Club International loyalty points. That makes a point worth 12.5 cents. A night at Best Western's Executive Inn in Toronto costs \$150



MAJOR LOYALTY PROGRAMS NOW GIVE YOU MANY ALTERNATIVES WHEN YOU SPEND YOUR POINTS

amalgamating the hotel, car rental, merchandise, entertainment and "experience" choices under one booking engine at Aeroplan.com, where members can search more than 400 rewards in 10 categories for deals within certain dates, price ranges and cities.

Aeroplan's hotel room redemptions begin at 9,000 Aeroplan miles for a one-night stay and car rentals start at 5,000 miles. A round trip between Toronto and Vancouver begins at 25,000 miles. So what's an Aeroplan mile worth? Between two and three cents (based on a hotel room cost of about \$200 and flights worth about \$800).

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or 1,600 points, for a value of 9.4 cents a point.

Or you can put your points into a Kids' Futures Education Savings Account for your child at a rate of \$50 for every 875 points. That works out to 5.7 cents a point.

Best Western lets you earn these points at a rate of one for every U.S. dollar you spend. However, it occasionally runs promotions such as the current "Double Up" campaign where you can earn double points (or double miles on your frequent flyer program) until Dec. 14.

Another major loyalty program, InterContinental's Priority Club, offers similar value, but you must do some calculating. You earn 2,000 points per stay and 10 points for every dollar you spend on eligible charges at the hotel, so you earn about 10 times as many points per stay.

The redemption schedule corresponds to the higher earning rate. At InterContinental's Holiday Inn in Toronto, you can stay in a room that costs \$112 a night for 15,000 points. So 10 points are worth 7.5 cents. A room at InterContinental's Crowne Plaza costs \$135 or 25,000 points for a 30-point value of 5.4 cents. And the high-end InterContinental costs \$189 or 30,000 points, making 10 points worth 6.3 cents.

You must calculate how expensive it was to acquire the points before you can do a valid comparison between programs. Many promotional programs make it less expensive to acquire points. But now that many loyalty programs let you collect and spend points widely, look for these types of programs to start competing on their redemption value.

TOOLS OF TRAVEL: TECHNOLOGY TO GO

Whether you're working on the road or using your down time to relax, there's plenty of new technology to make the business traveler's life a little easier.

Sling Media Slingbox Personal Broadcaster

It's finally happened. Music, phone calls, computing and video playback go everywhere—so why not watch TV whenever you are? All you need is a laptop with Windows XP, a Wi-Fi hot spot and the Slingbox. At 1.75 inches by 10.75 inches by 3.75 inches, the Slingbox sits with your entertainment system. It streams digitized programming from your cable or satellite box to a remote PC with a broadband Internet connection. Find that Wi-Fi hot spot and watch your favorite programs anywhere. Cost is \$249.

Nokia N90 Multimedia Phone

Expensive at \$900 but it puts all your gadgets in one shell. You

get a two-megapixel camera with flash and 20x zoom, an MPEG-4 video player, an MP3/AAC audio player and direct photo printing with PictBridge via USB cable (or just take out the multimedia card). It has a four-gigabyte hard drive, built-in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth and two screens. Just twist the rotating camera barrel to take pictures—there's a dedicated video capture key. Unfold and twist the main display and shoot MP4 video.

Sorell SF3000 MP3 Player

At just over an inch wide, 2.5 inches long and 0.6 inches thick, this tiny box plays MP3, WMA, ASF and OGG audio files, FM radio and MPEG-4 video as well as displaying JPEG photos on its high-resolution LCD screen. Its

one-gigabyte memory is enough to carry 250 tunes. Why take it on a business trip? One of its strengths is excellent voice recording for note-taking at conferences. Price: \$250.

SIM Saver Backup and Copy Units

These little devices (about 2.25 inches by 1.5 inches by 0.5 inches) protect you from theft or damage to your GSM phone's SIM card, and you can also use it to transfer phone book data if you change wireless providers. They're easy to use: some have only one button, others have two that let you move through options and enter your choices. The backup process takes about 30 seconds. They cost about \$20. ■

Turkey | BY ADAM R. KURN



PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

The more Europeans criticize their culture, the more insular Turks may become

Accession talks between Turkey and the European Union got underway last week, but it was hardly an auspicious beginning. Last minute demands by Ankara that the requirement be limited to partnership and not full membership underscored the strong anti-EUish sentiments that exist throughout the EU. And while American objections were overcome, thanks to an agreement to include talks with Croatia, a close American ally, the 11th-hour favor over-

Inside the Mosque of the Conqueror in Istanbul, "Europe is a Christian club. We are Muslims."

shadowed another developing trend that may yet soured the talks: the strengthening of anti-EU sentiment among Turks. Madison's Contributing Editor Adam R. Kurn is based in Istanbul. He filed this report on the debate over accession to Turkey.

FINALLY, HERE'S something radical: Islam and right-wing Christians can agree on. Muslim Turkey does not belong in the European Union. It's an odd commonality, but somehow apt, given the brief history of modern Turkey. Unholy alliances have abounded in this country that not only straddles two continents but also a variety of often conflicting visions of the world. In the 1970s, Islamists and ultra-nationalists banded together against an encroaching Communist threat. More recently, capitalists and extremist Muslim groups have worked closely to push Turkey, a poor nation of some 70 million people, into the EU—while the Islamists and ultra-nationalists Europe has replaced Communism as the common enemy.

As EU accession talks get under way in Luxembourg, chastening, chastening voices may be heard to join together in opposing what they see as a path to the destruction of Turkish identity and culture. "Turks may have different ways of seeing themselves in the world," explains Yildiz Bayal, a 33-year-old filmmaker in Istanbul's hip Beyoglu district. "But they will always be Turks first—Islamists, modernists, fascists, it makes no difference." Sipping sugary black tea in one of Beyoglu's many crowded outdoor cafés, Bayal adds that Turkey's various radical groups will have no difficulty with working in coalition. "If they think the nation is threatened, they will come together."

In the world's hells of political perspectives that is the Turkish republic, the EU either represents social progress, or feeds the dark passions of ultra right-wing xenophobia. It all depends on whom you're talking to, and where. In Istanbul, many of some 20 million, support for joining the EU is strong in Beyoglu, which is the heart of Istanbul's secularized. Short 13-minute drive away, in the ultra-conservative Fatih district, cafes and bars and the streets are populated by veiled women wearing the full-body chador as common in theocratic Iran. More, women



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Turkey | »

radiate out from the Fatiha mosque, the heart of this deeply religious community. In its outer courtyard, a presider calls against the dangers to Turkey's Islamic identity if it becomes part of the EU. "We reject European," says one of the worshippers. "Europe is a Christian club. We are Muslims."

At a tea-house adjacent to the mosque's southern wall, 61-year-old İsmet Korkun, a retired ferry worker, adds his voice to the growing chorus of conservative Muslims who see Turkey's possible inclusion in the European Union as a threat to Islam. "It's already happening," he says. "My children refuse to live the lives of Muslims. They say, 'We have democracy—we don't have to do this or that.' If Turkey joins the EU, it will get worse." Other older, bearded men nod in agreement, while across the street a group of kids, one of them wearing a T-shirt with "France" emblazoned on the front, plays soccer.

Suspicion of the EU is also strong among those who do not identify themselves as staunch Islamists—but who do understand the Islam plays a role in Turkish identity. "The problem with the radical Islamists is that they look to the Middle East for political guidance," says Berk Saracoglu, 34, an ad agency executive. "They are interested in political Islam, not European democracy. Muslims like me worry more about the loss of Turkey's Islamic identity." For Saracoglu, EU membership is inevitable—although he says he would vote against joining. "We have to make the best of it," he says.

Coskun Tuzen, 33, Saracoglu's business partner, is a former member of the ultra-nationalist and militant militia group the Grey Wolves. "The Turkish government is selling out the country," Tuzen says, adding that the more radical members of the Grey Wolves, an organization he abandoned in 1996 but to which he still has some ties, believe joining Europe will compromise Turkey's genetic and spiritual foundations. "It is a form of political, economic and cultural colonization," he says. "For the Muslims, it's religious identity that's at stake. For the ultra-nationalists, it's ethnic identity."

For now, both Saracoglu and Tuzen insist there is no co-operation between Islamists and ultra-nationalists. But Turkey's road to Europe is not set to open any time soon—the negotiations are expected to last at least a decade. The playing field will inevitably change in that time, given the

political, economic and social reforms EU member countries have already demanded from Turkey, and will continue to insist on (as part of the criteria for beginning membership talks). Turkey has, among other things, improved its human rights record and taken steps against corruption. French President Jacques Chirac gave some indication of the scope of what will be expected—



The other side of Turkey: a European-style café in Istanbul's hip Beyoğlu district.

and how fractious the negotiations may prove to be—when he said last week that Turkey may have to endure "a major cultural revolution" to become a full EU member. Chirac said he was not at all sure the process would be successful. "I cannot say," he told reporters. "I hope so—but I am not at all sure."

Many of the reforms will be painful for ultra-nationalists and Islamists, and will likely increase antipathy not only toward the EU but also the Turkish government. "We regret we have to be patient—for now," says Ahmet Kales, a cobbler working near

outside of the Fatiha mosque. "But only for now." Kales is a member of Milli Görüş, a radical Muslim organization based primarily in Germany whose stated goal has been to overthrow Turkey's secular governmental system and replace it with an Islamic regime based on Sharia law. In his workshop, he openly condemns the current government, led by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, a former disciple of Necmettin Erbakan, the one-time Islamist prime minister of Turkey, as traitors. Like many of Turkey's Islamists, Kales feels betrayed by Erdoğan's Justice and Development Party, which came to power in 2002 on a religious platform but has since reformed to fifth-based rhetoric.

Erdoğan's government has worked hard to ensure the start of Turkey's EU membership negotiations. Muslim Islamist leanings are evident in Ankara, the capital. Female civil servants, for example, are banned from wearing trousers in public areas. And, reportedly, Erdoğan's party successfully lobbied the German government to prevent Milli Görüş from being designated a terrorist organization (some security experts say Ankara is, in fact, quietly sponsoring the group). Such sensitivities remain a stumbling block for many of the reforms Turkey will need to make before its full induction in the EU.

And, meanwhile, Islamists and nationalists can take some comfort in the numbers: since 2004, support for EU membership among Turks has dropped from 73 per cent to 63 per cent. Part of that can be attributed to the uncertainty that followed the rejection of the EU constitution by both the French and the Dutch in referendums earlier this year, with the future of the EU under a cloud, many Turks begin to question the benefits of joining a club in crisis.

But anti-Islamist sentiment among Europeans—according to some polls more than half oppose Turkey's EU membership bid—may also be serving to anger Turks, and fuel a more avowed antipathy toward them. The more Turkey's citizens are criticized by voices in Europe, the tighter Turks may pull the blanket of national and cultural identity around themselves. Ultimately, the real danger on Turkey's bid for EU membership may not lie in the difficult negotiations ahead in Luxembourg, but among those Turks who believe they will never really be accepted in the EU club—and who say good riddance.

'IT'S ALREADY happening. My children refuse to live the lives of Muslims. If Turkey joins the EU, it will get worse.'



STEP AWAY FROM THE CAR

God help us if Canada's Worst Driver helps Chris regain his confidence

I DISLIKE DRIVERS who flash their left-turn signal only after halting at a stoplight, and police are that momentarily puzzled: important roads slowing traffic to a crawl. I dislike drivers who, on planning a left turn from the middle lane of a one-way street, glance at you with self-righteous outrage when you pull up next to them and make your left turn from the correct lane. But I really like the drivers on the Discovery Channel's new reality show *Canada's Worst Driver*.

To get on the show you must be nominated. And nominations were, by their spouses,

friends, co-workers and mothers-in-law. What civic-minded wife wouldn't turn in her husband over his rolling traps? All responsible organizations have a witness-protection unit for whistle-blowers on driver safety or behaviour in the washroom. The Good Canadian isn't simply law-abiding, he's an Enforcement Officer in civilian clothes.

The eight nominees chosen are not fit to drive in the Gobi desert on a clear day, but every one of them has a driving licence in good order from a Canadian province. Heather, 59, from Medicine Hat, is my personal favourite. She has an unwavering stare of blank incompetence as she grips the wheel and steers at a glacial 25 km/h in a 60-km zone looking neither left nor right. Madeline, gone driving and mobile phone calling, barely notices the road, ends up in the ditch half the time, and relies on the kindness of (male) strangers to get her out. With her animal sensuality, what man wouldn't? Chris, 31, looks like Dr. Fu Manchu and is too scared to get in his car. If the series helps him back to it, God help us all.

As far as I can see, in a general way, driving styles reflect ancestry and national character. I haven't driven my Acura/Infiniti from, when driving, I try to avoid peoples of the Orient, even wearing hats, ladies of my age and elderly Jewish gentile men on the subway. I need to be better driven than western, North Americans and western Europeans better than anywhere else, and younger people quicker learners than their elders.

Europeans make much more fun about their driving skills than North Americans, probably because until a generation or so

ago, having a car was more of a big deal than it ever was in postwar North America. The British are immensely proud of their driving skills and especially of the roundabout, an invention that operates on driver courtesy and is especially loved when fled by at least four roads—two of them blind. It is a Finnish device and so venerated that you have the feeling many Brits get up in the morning to find their favourite roundabout and spend the day going around it. Finnish soldiers are doubtless building roundabouts in Baghdad, which should tie up baffled Americans in splendid free-tank collisions.

The attributes for good driving include intelligence, hand-to-eye coordination and agility. Just why the Chinese who have a sur-

prise over far or against it. Organized by the Canadian Automobile Association, it had workshops with statistics and information on driver distraction. Automobiles learned that drivers get distracted by owners outside the car, children inside it, pets all over and, of course, the dreaded cellphone. Sadly, the conference learned, you couldn't quantify the causes of collisions because police tend not to note whether you were looking in your handbag for a lipstick when hitting the trailer ahead, and a driver tends not to highlight that blow he was having with his wife when he jacked up.

The new technology will solve all. Among gadgets being tested are guardshift locks that prevent drivers from shifting gears if they haven't buckled up. In Sweden, their sensible solution is to temporarily block any radio operation. Better it can have a diabolical software option with a camera and program that record lane markings as the vehicle moves, and if sensing any deviation without any turn signal activation, the system warns the driver with a sound signal (electric shocks later).

Here's my take. Everything changes while driving. The problem is not distractions but inability to multi-task. Any driver should be able to multi-task and the best car with versatile drivers, delivery people, police, and mothers on the school

bus. Some people can't, so different levels of driving licenses might be in order. A basic licence would enable a person to drive a car solo, with no electronics, during daylight hours in decent weather. The next level would chance cloudy days and an hour after sunset and before sunrise. The next level would permit a person to take everyone in his car, including strange people, and drive day and night in hurricane Katrina while chatting on a cellphone and listening to rap.

As for Heather, I'm afraid, my dear, it's a bicycle. **M**

HEATHER, my personal favourite, has an unwavering stare of blank incompetence as she grips the wheel and steers at a glacial 25 km/h in a 60-km zone



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GOO-GOO-GOTTA-GO!

Babies don't need diapers. Not if you're proficient in elimination communication.

PAMELA ANDREWS does not seem like a housewife, but the facts are indisputable: on this sunny fall day in Toronto, she's encouraging toddlers to dash on her couch and run around her living room—her walls to wall carpeted living room—with no diapers, or, in some cases, anything at all on their bottoms. Her own son, 23-month-old *Aidan*, disposed of diapers about a year and a half ago. "He never liked being wet," drags Andrews, a premenstrually calm woman with a shock of white hair.

And Andrews herself never liked diapers. She and her other five babies in her diaper-free support group believe that diapers, even cloth ones, are tedious, expensive, environ-

mentally unfriendly and for the most part unnecessary. Even at a few months of age, they say, babies should be afforded the dignity of being held over the toilet. Or the sink. "A lot of people recognize the signals that their baby has to go," says Andrews. "This is just about responding differently to those signals."

"This" is elimination communication, a phrase coined by Ingrid Bauer, a.k.a. C. water whose self-published book *Diaper-Free!* is the bible of a growing global movement. The diaper-free diapers include one diaper in Canada, all led by women who subscribe to Bauer's notion that the ideal time to start potty training is in the first weeks of life. "Difficulties increase," Bauer cautions, as the baby approaches five months.

EC works like this: you sense the baby needs to go, then hold him over a receptacle while nuzzling him with a sound. Soon enough, the baby will begin to use that same sound to indicate he needs to go—and when he doesn't, maternal intuition will kick in. "My son didn't poop in a diaper after four months," says Bauer, a little staidly, "and my daughter never pooped in one."

Nevertheless, EC devotees stress that diaper-free doesn't mean giving up diapers altogether. Carol Nwagwu, a member of the Toronto group, uses them on outings. "Just in case." But, she says, her 23-month-old son rarely soils them. "I started ECing Noah when he was four months old, and in all this time we've had him that a dozen mishaps," she glances proudly at Noah, who is playing with a large purple ball, then



scoops him up and hustles to the bathroom. "Easier me, that's his potty face."

The idea that parents should intuit and respond to a baby's elimination needs is heretical in North America, where the prevailing wisdom is that children should use the toilet of their own volition, when they are "ready." Over the past 30 years, the protracted age of readiness has climbed steadily, creating a boom—and over larger sums—in the multi-billion-dollar disposable diaper market. Child development gurus such as T. Berry Brazelton issue dark warnings about the psychological perils of rushing kids out of diapers, the redoubtable Peadar Kirby Leach bristly dismisses any attempt to toilet train in the first

year of life as "a mistake" made by parents who put their own desires ahead of their child's needs.

"That simply doesn't jibe with the experience of millions of women around the world," says Ingrid, noting that EC is common practice in China, India and parts of Africa. "It's a Western reaction to renege early toilet training, which EC is not." In fact, its devotees say, EC is more respectful to children than "training them to go in their diapers and sit on their waste," says Nwagwu. Not only is the baby kept cleaner and therefore happier—EC promotes bonding and is fun for the whole family. Yes, fun. "It feels good to be able to respond to your child's needs in this way," says Andrews. "Most people are surprised when they catch their first pooh." Nwagwu disagrees. "For me, it was catching the first pee."

Christine Rastick, another member of the Toronto group, ticks off the benefits. EC empowers the baby, as nature on the parent. "When Bauer?" "It's more work to change a baby," says Rastick, who looks like a less dewy-eyed Dorothy Hamill. "And very rarely has my daughter pooped on me."

"That pooh on me sweet," Andrews says, ruminatively. "It was in summer, on my lawn. That was kind of gross, I have to say."

"But at least with EC you never have to deal with a pooh-plastered butt," points out Nwagwu. "In China, what we're doing is totally normal. No one gets upset if a little baby pee goes on the floor."

Of course, EC is more than a little impractical for parents who work outside the home. Bauer is the latest salvo in the mommy wars? "Just because I think that is better for my family doesn't mean I think everyone should do it," says Nwagwu.

It's clear, though, that these women believe EC promotes mother-child attachment. Whether they are right, it should be noted, that during their training, all their children happily used the toilet—and at the end, Andrews' carpet was still dry. ■

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EVERYBODY LOVES DANIEL

The beauty of eight-year-old TV host Daniel Cook is he says what he thinks



IT'S 8 A.M. on a Monday and Daniel Cook, the star of one of Canada's most popular kids' shows, *Thru a Daniel Cook*, has just finished breakfast, a bowl of Lucky Charms. Before school started this year, Cook taped 65 more episodes of the show, which airs not only on usually every kids' channel in Canada, but, since being bought by Disney this year, five days a week across the U.S. (The new season starts in December.) The first DVD of *Thru a Daniel Cook*, which premiered in 2004, will be released in November and the BBC recently followed him around for a week for a profile.

Cook, who lives just outside Toronto, began his television career at the age of six. He is now eight (though his agent tells me he's calling himself seven—apparently, it's never too early in this business to start lying about your age). He has become so famous his family can no longer walk into a McDonald's, says his mother, Deborah.

"Too many people want to talk to him. We've even been approached by 20-year-olds who know who he is. I'm not sure what they're doing watching a kids' show."

Cook, I've been warned before our interview, has been "media trained." "Hello Rebecca," he says, politely, when his mother passes the phone to him. After three minutes of answering such questions as, "Do you like school?" and "Do you have a best friend?" he moans, "Oh my god!" He's bored talking to me. "This is the beauty of Daniel Cook. He says whatever enters his mind

When he met the mayor of Toronto, he asked David Miller why kids aren't allowed to vote—or have dinner before dinner. In each episode of his show (they have titles like "This Is Daniel Cook feeding animals" or "This is Daniel Cook learning to train a puppy"), Cook learns from professional guests—everyone from chocolate makers to world champion figure skaters. "My favourite show was trying the plane, and my other favourite show was going to go to Disneyland," he says. From a child's perspective, the show is a he because Cook gets to do everything a child

dreams of doing. From an adult perspective—and for the sensitivity-walkers who watch children's TV for lack of the appeal is getting to watch uncensored television. If Daniel Cook is bored (flying, for instance, he doesn't like it). Then there's the dangerous thing. More often than not, he'll bring up his love for dinosaurs even if he's making pizza with a professional pizza maker. "I want to be a paleontologist when I grow up," he says, "because I really, really, really like dinosaurs."

Cook was "discovered" at the age of five, when his mother took him to meet a talent agent, a friend of the family who had sold the Cooks (he was once in *Daniel*). While his mother was signing documents, Cook was left talking to receptionist J.J. Johnson, then a 22-year-old graduate of Ryerson University who had already started *Roaring Star* Productions with Blair Powers, which, along

with Marble Media, produces *Thru a Daniel Cook*. "They just got along so well," says Deborah Cook of Johnson. "They were talking about themselves and having the best time. So J.J. created the show around Daniel. We thought maybe Daniel would make a commercial or two and make a bit of money. We never thought it would go this far."

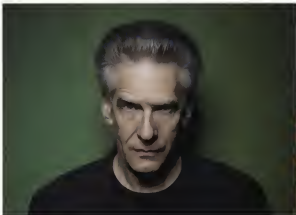
Deborah Cook knew the bad what the describes as a "terrifying pass" early on. "Once he was backing with his younger brother, Spencer, and I said, 'Stop aggravating your brother, Daniel,' and he responded, 'He ag-

gravated me!'" The parents each surrounded things, Deborah says. The way at home mother and her husband, Murray, who works at an advertising company, have no idea where their work-

ability comes from. "I've never intimidated," she says. Still, despite Daniel's success, they don't want their five-year-old, Spencer, to go into the business. "We don't want that sibling rivalry. Spencer is a really good kid so I think we'll concentrate on that for him."

At home, Daniel acts, and a trained life, any other eight-year-old. He likes video games and his favourite chore is washing the car. "Oh my god, he is such a normal kid," says his mother. "But because he's so confident, he can sometimes get a little crazy. He does get punished and does get time outs, probably more than the average kid." Right now it's time for Daniel to go off the phone. The TV host has to go to school. "Yeah, too bad for me," he says. **BT**

This Is Daniel Cook taking a phone. Not shows the child star on a first cut



VIOLENCE HITS HOME

Cronenberg scores with a taut thriller that subverts a classic American genre



THE TITLE WORKS on multiple levels. David Cronenberg's *A History of Violence* is the tale of Tom Stall, who runs a diner in a Norman Rockwell vision of small-town America. At gunpoint by Viggo Mortensen, he appears to be a mild-mannered family man so quiet and unassuming he could be Canadian. But when a couple of murderous psychopaths step onto his diner and give him a hard time, he dispatches them with a lightning

brink that makes you start to wonder if he has... a history of violence. But the role of this rare, unnerving thriller could also reveal to America itself, as a country that revels in its dark side when provoked by an outside menace. Like Derry's *Armad*, *The Decline of the American Empire*, it carries a ring of intellectual import. Last month, at a film festival party celebrating the movie's

Toronto premiere, I found myself locked in a conversation with a rather naive William Hurt, one of its stars. Discussing America's political and moral climate, he said he was about the side wouldn't play in the U.S. "It's L.A. and it's," he said. "It's not a history of violence, a story of violence." "This was a bit strange. What's next to go?" "We get it because you're Canadian." In

America, they won't get it."

Well, it seems they are getting it. Replied by this movie reviews, *A History of Violence* has given the Canadian director his first solid box office hit since *The Fly* (1986). Opening on 1,349 screens in its first weekend of wide release in North America, the movie had grossed almost US\$9 million. And while it didn't lead the pack, its average gross per screen was much higher than those of its blockbuster competitors, *Flightplan* and *Severely*, which both had far broader distribution. With a US\$32-million budget, financed entirely by Time Warner's New Line Cinema, *A History of Violence* is the most movie by Hollywood standards, yet the most

coolly reflecting Cronenberg's career. Although it's a U.S. production, with American stars, "if we're talking creative categories," says Cronenberg, "it's a true Canada-U.S. co-production." "It was shot in Ontario with local crew. And it subverts a classic American genre with a distinctly Canadian sensibility. It's violence in the general theme of American cinema—no shooting of rough Coppolas, Scorsones, Eisensteins. *A History of Violence* may well be the movie of the year, and a bold Oscar candidate. Cronenberg is famous for demystifying horrors of the film-autos such as *Naked Lunch*, *Dead Ringers* and *Cross*. But now it's all his master outlay

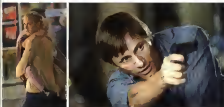
agely reflecting Cronenberg, the "silence" true story of a model turned bounty hunter—the brutality in Cronenberg's film is carefully sparse and businesslike. And in between the explosive scenes of action, the scenes are given a lot of emotional room to breathe. Although Cronenberg is famous for shocking us with the grotesque, *A History of Violence* grows something that those who've worked with him have always insisted on: he's an actor's director. As old-fashioned mobsters from Philly, a soon-faced Ed Harris and a lanky, hideous William Hurt weigh in like long lost, demoted cousins of *Tony Soprano*. As

but home agent had guys with guns. It raises the question of motivation. Is anything justified when you're attacked? It's also hard not to notice that George Bush uses American Western movies as a model for his foreign policy—Obama his Loden wanted dead or alive."

But when it's suggested that Bush might enjoy the film, the director doesn't agree. "It depends how superficially you approach it, and I'm sure he could approach it very superficially. The American Western as a genre is very conservative, and usually resolves very Christian themes of redemption. This movie subverts a lot of that. You also wonder what does it take to support this perfect little town? What outside of that town, and outside of that country, has to happen in order for it to come?"

Those nuances might be lost on some viewers. At a film festival party, NDP Leader Jack Layton told me he was appalled by how the audience applauded the film's violent retribution. "It made me angry," he said. "This is the world of George Bush."

Even though he appears to be approaching movie violence from a moral high ground, Cronenberg's refusal to modernize more mindless screen bloodbaths as a bad influence. "That would be hypocritical," he says. "Those changes have been leveled against me in the past. Humans are pretty ugly and strange. I think people recognize the fantasy element of most of the violence they see on screen. How many times have I seen people killed on the screen. Maybe a hundred thousand. But I've never actually wanted to witness a violent act. And the one or two times that have, nothing has ever occurred in my mind. I'm talking about two drinks



Bello is a mother in a family under siege, Mortensen has a subverted, sexy intensity

from film's wild frontier has shown up on Main Street, swinging open the saloon doors, and takes a place at the bar alongside Francis, Marty and Clint.

Based on a graphic novel, *A History of Violence* works as a thriller, a gangster film and a contemporary Western. But in a cover story at war, it also plays with the blood heat of its audience eager to cheer on forces of righteous retribution. "The violence in film seems completely justifiable," says Cronenberg, "because the bad guys are established as really bad guys. So the audience feels, man, they're very heroic in dispatching them. They're complete in the violence. They applied it. Then I always add a couple of shots of the aftermath to cut the adrenaline short, or at least to contaminate it to say, even if the violence is justified, it still does horrific things to the human body."

But unlike the organic carnage in some Hollywood product—this week it's the se-

the story's reluctant hero, Mortensen plays off the promise he showed in *The Land of the Kings* with a subverted, sexy intensity. And so Bello, a wife and mother shocked by her husband's newfound prowess at killing, Maria Bello suggests in the knife-edge between repulsion and desire. The movie, which could be subtitled *Scenes from a Marriage*, is a story of trust framed by two carnal narratives: between husband and wife. The film is sweet and tender. The second is a brazen confrontation on a staircase, as angry struggle that dissolves into lovemaking.

As for the film's broader implications, Cronenberg agrees the film "does have political undertones, or overtones, although it's not overtly political. Those are things that Viggo and I discussed a lot when I was trying to convince him to do the movie. You have a man who's defending his family and

IT'S AS IF + master outlaw has come to town, swung up in the saloon doors, and joined Francis, Marty and Clint at the bar

ing about two drinks hearing each other up in a park. Toronto. It was so terrifying I got weak in the knees." "That's the real reason from men which built a career on making us uncomfortable. Cronenberg has always treated metaphor, and metaphor, of the film as metaphor. His real goal is to make us feel as if we're uncomfortable with our own morality. What's most disturbing about *A History of Violence* is not its themes of offense retribution, but the moments of intimate terror as a woman looks into her husband's eyes and sees a stranger. **B**



BOMBED-OUT ATOM

Despite a payload of sex and stars, Egoyan's bid for the mainstream misfires

ROBERT LANTOS is on the phone, and he has a beef. Canada's foremost movie mogul is berating Maclean for running a photo spread accompanying a story about the Toronto International Film Festival. "Every single photograph showed movie stars," says Lantos. "But for *Where the Truth Lies*, you can't picture a picture of the director. People don't care about directors. People care about stars." It suggests that Egoyan added a splash of CanCon to a sea of Hollywood faces, and that he may be as familiar to Canadians as Kevin Bacon, Colin Firth or

Allison Lohman—the former star of *Where the Truth Lies*. But Lantos, its producer, won't hear of it. "Movie stars sell movies. Only a small *élite* comes about Anton Egoyan."

Which's deeply ironic in all this is that no one has played a more instrumental role in elevating Egoyan's stature than Lantos—who served in his production on *Exotica*, *The Sweet Hereafter*, *Polish Wedding* and *Ararat*. But now, *Where the Truth Lies*, Egoyan's career has hit a perilous crossroad. The Canada-U.K. co-

production cost \$30 million, twice as much as anything he's ever made. And it needs to draw wider audience than he's ever reached. "In that world," says Lantos, "people go to movies for different reasons than those who are looking for capital-C cinema." So he's building *Where the Truth Lies* as "a sexy film noir," loaded with nudity and sexual controversy (but ever since Cannes, where the movie got tepid reviews, and failed to snag a major U.S. distributor, the film's prospects have been shaky

Egoyan's tenth feature is his strangest piece of storytelling—although "strange" might not be the right word for a shadowy intrigue that rages between the '50s and the '70s, with scenes that include a ménage à trois and a druggy bout of lesbian sex to the tune of *White Rabbit*—with a young woman consumed as Alice in Wonderland going down on a nude Alison Lohman.

Baring his script on a breezy novel by Rupert Holmes, Egoyan did the opposite of what most filmmakers do to books: he made it more complicated. The story concerns a young female journalist (Lohman) investigating the breakup of a sleazy American con-man who is linked to the mysterious death of a hotel worker (Richard Shanahan). In this agitated, well-crafted period piece, Bacon and Firth are superb as the two men—they literally act their parts off. But the plot has some creepy kinks. And many

Lohman is miscast as a journalist, but Bacon, who acts his parts off, is superb

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erics, including this one, were buffed by the casting of Lohman, who's too likable to be a star journalist, and whose even drier voice-over with gruffish line readings as inert as the dead blood in the crux of the intrigue.

Justifying his casting choice, Egoyan says he wanted an actress who would be credible as a 12-year-old in flashback scenes with Bacon's character as a police technician. Lohman, he explains, "is a girl woman and that's something that fascinates me." Extra similarities between creepy father figures and vulnerable "girl-women" have emerged as an obsessive refrain in Egoyan's movies—most notably *Arbitrage*, *The Sweet Hereafter* and *Ridiculous Journey*. This time it may have crested amid artistic blind spots, but he defends his obsession. "Take where you have to weigh your actual interest with a degree of responsibility," he says. "I love that zone. And it seems to revolve around older men and younger women."

He's reaching for the director's fabled "lens" to office, a 16 small coffee table stacked with boxes of videotapes—a luxury from film's dollar-bill days. The movie accompanied will-to-visit with members and yellowing postcard displays, evidence of an actor's celebrity. But the director admits the idea that his latest work will not be presented in an Atom Egoyan film. "This is the big experience," he says, holding up the movie's poster and showing that his movie is not featured on it. "We're trying to diminish it a bit and see what happens. The film, by its very nature, asks to take off like a rocket and fly far from where it was made."

When the Motion Picture Association of America placed *Where the Truth Lies* with the stringent NC-17 rating, the film's accessibility was suddenly limited. But when the filmmakers appealed the rating, aware, possibly, they graced a terror of publicity. And the film's distributor, Thinkfilm CEO Jeff Sackman, admits the ratings-based films became part of the marketing strategy—"you've got to make headlines out of the ratings." Now the film has been released in the U.S. and around the world. And Egoyan says he's relieved the MPAA didn't approve the version he submitted in appealing for an R-rating—"we'd cut out large sections of

the lesbian scenes and the orgy."

Whether the controversy will help the film is debatable. In a phone interview from New York, Bacon said, "It's ultimately unfortunate. It's really not a coffin, and some people will be disappointed by that. Other people will stay away because they feel the basis of this sexual content, and they'll become about that." Meanwhile, who's featured in the movie's lives, agrees "it's a shame, because it's overshadowing the movie."

So where does Egoyan go from here? Every day he receives one or two screenings in Hollywood, which recognizes his ability to craft smart, stylish pictures on modest budgets. So far he's preferred to write his own scripts. If *Where the Truth Lies* fails at the box office, Egoyan may have to work with a much reduced palette. But he's not without options. Having pulled off acclaimed productions of *Solomon and Shoshanna*, he's in demand as an open director. And, coated by digital media, he's just made a no-budget feature called *Goodbye*, which grew from a mass of home video footage that he took of his wife as she visited Lohman, her therapist, for the first time in 25 years.

As he off, Egoyan's openness to show me a big old Steinbeck editing console, no more with much of calculated. The film is *Kruglov's Last Year*, a European TV movie he made in 2000. It's cut as an image of a real to real time recorder. But the one used by Lohman's journalist in *Where the Truth Lies* is an unreliable one, the ultimate statement of irony, says Egoyan, who loves to mix art and craft. For her part, he's a recorder who's not a small computer in the corner. "This is where I'm doing it," he says. "This is where I'm doing it." Picking an envelope off the desk, he adds, "Here's the latest Hollywood script, which I read this morning. It's a Sherlock Holmes story, and it's actually surprising."

A prodigy of public funding who rose to Oscar-nominated eminence, Egoyan recognizes he's "the dream-walk fantasy of a lot of cultural bureaucrats." True to his roots, he seems inclined to argue that. It's enough to make you wonder if, unconsciously, he might have sabotaged the commercial appeal of *Where the Truth Lies*—this outside view of Hollywood does this or he wouldn't have to play the game from the inside. ■

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HOLLYWOOD'S FILTHY HABITS

Booze, drugs, sex—and no consequences. What's not to love?

SHOCKING NEWS from the world of academia: new research published in Britain's peer-reviewed *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* concludes that Hollywood—insect sharp intake of breath to declare unimpeachable heretofore-glamorous promiscuity, risky sex, drug use and alcohol intoxication. As a veteran observer of the movie industry, I find this study to be patently unfair to filmmakers and media executives, who have worked hard to establish a well-documented record of also glamorizing misogyny, vigilantism, megacorporations, sexual perversion, brutal violence and, although without much success to date, Madonna.

The journal article is based on the observations of two researchers who analyzed the portrayals of sex and drugs in 10 of the top 20 box office draws of all time—including *Basic Instinct*, *Armageddon* and the James Bond film *Die Another Day*. Turns out many of these movies feature episodes of sexual content, but few if any include suggestions of condom use, birth control or the merits of monogamy. Meanwhile, drug use in action pictures is most often depicted in a positive light, without consequences. (The study is available in full on the society's website, www.jrsm.org—click on the D, for Data.)

The research group headed by Dr. Huantha Ganssler, an Australian public health expert and the world's worst movie date. To begin, he and his colleagues discovered that just 25 percent of the films they studied were free of "negative health behaviours" such as unprotected sex between new partners, marijuana use, smoking and drink-and-drive. In a related finding, 59 percent of the films studied were also really, really boring.

The researchers are calligous movie-makers to show the harmful consequences of their drug use and to depict safer sexual practices. "There is convincing evidence that the [movie] industry and audience behaviour," Ganssler told the *BBC* and, to be fair, they're right to his contention. For instance, every time Tom Cruise goes head-to-head with his girlfriend, millions of ordinary people are convinced with the urge to punch him in the face. That's pretty unhealthy.

The findings, published last week, made newspapers around the world an account of adults sharing a deep and abiding passion for psychiatry research—at least the kind that purifies painting a large photograph of Halle



Katie Berry in the bond thriller *Die Another Day* check out the research on her

Berry in a bikini. But there are, in fact, important lessons to be learned from this study, the most obvious one being that researchers across the Ganssler world must have the guts of Dr. Huantha Ganssler. Consider the October edition of the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* features detailed articles on neuroendocrine, endocrine heart valve surgery and post-cancer cadaveric organ donation hyperfunction syndrome. And then there's Dr. Ganssler, getting a publishing credit to write about Richard Gere selling Julia Roberts in *Pretty Woman*. While some untapped researchers were spending long nights down at the lab, up to their elbows

in pancreas, there was Ganssler—a dip board in hand, watching Sharon Stone uncross her legs. And then watching it again. What a second, in that her—God, I wish she stayed half-nude forever!

There's not a mind to person Dr. Ganssler's paper in its entirety can get a sense of the cinematic world he craves from the following scene—James Bond in Dr. Huantha Ganssler's *Die Another Day* of *Natural Causes* at a Pipe Old Age.

SCANTLEY ELAD VIBEN

Drunk, Mr. Bond?

James goes for her nearly

BOND

The usual—a Diet Yoo-hoo

VIBEN

Oops, James. I can't resist any longer—

make love to me.

He takes her in his arms

VIBEN

...after signing in triplicate this

declaration of nonconsensual intent.

A weary public emerges from the Viben's

evening bag.

VIBEN [harshly]

We'll have the paperwork back in seven to

10 business days

VIBEN

That should give me just enough time

James finishes with the state-of-the-art

condom applicator and wadges supplied to

him by Q

BOND

Probably best to wear two, don't you

think? That'll teach chiropods who's boss

while simultaneously preventing me from

imprinting you with my semen and ...

chance! ... Owww! That nail went right in

my ...

There is an awkward silence

BOND

So maybe abstinence is the way to go there?

They sit quietly for 35 minutes.

Roll end credits

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THE NEW 'BARIHUNK'

A new opera about the atomic bomb has made Gerald Finley the hottest baritone on stage

WHEN THE CURTAIN rises on Act II of *Doctor Atomic*, the new John Adams opera playing at the War Memorial Opera House in San Francisco (until Oct. 22), the audience sees an atomic bomb—the first ever, on the eve of its detonation at the New Mexico desert-suspended above eight feet over a baby's crib. As microphones go, this one is as subtle as a brick. *The Bomb—The Man: That Hangs Over All Our Children*. Oh, I get it. But then something surprising and amazing and fascinating happens, one of many surprising and amazing and fascinating things about this nuclear-age opera. The crib simply stays there,

with the bomb hanging over it, for almost the entire second act. Lots of entirely unrelated business happens around the bomb-made centerpiece. Characters sing in an bluish ignorance of the suspended menace. But the threat remains.

Which, Gerald Finley reminded me the day after I saw *Doctor Atomic*, is pretty much what life has been like for all of us since the first atomic blast. Finley is the singer who plays J. Robert Oppenheimer, the lead scientist on the Manhattan Project, which designed the bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He is the star of *Doctor Atomic*. Its composer, John Adams, could lay a fair claim to being the most prominent classical composer alive, and at 45-year-old Finley is already making international career locked up a month last week when he became the most talked-about baritone in opera. And he says that when he was a kid in Ottawa in the 1970s, the peril of the atom was a subject of constant preoccupation.

"My interpretation of growing up in Canada was always that we were in the middle," recalls the strapping, Montreal-born singer,

who traveled to the capital when he was 16 and his dad landed a job in the civil service. The six-and-a-half-year-old boy and young Gerry Finley would stare to consider the ambiguous side effects of life between the Americans and the Soviets. "You know," he remembers telling himself, "he's going to miss and they're gonna hit Sudbury. Or they're gonna say, 'Okay, it's North Dakota'—and Winnipeg is gonna get it."

So Finley is hardly unfamiliar with the sense of looming nuclear fear over *Doctor Atomic*, which counts down the last days before the first successful nuclear weapons test and ends—in a manner that has left the critics sharply divided over its effectiveness—with that first terrifying blast. Yet Finley was "very hesitant" about taking on the role of Oppenheimer, the tortured, chain-smoking genius. "He's iconic—mythological to a certain extent. I thought, well, first of all I'm Canadian. I don't come from Jewish stock. I've got every strong Scotch-Swiss much to me—there was no way I could get the distance or the wisdom of him. But I thought, however, this guy's dealing with an amazingly challeng-



London's Times called one Finley aria "astoundingly beautiful, profound, devastating"

ing act of circumstances. Which makes the investigation of the character—dealing with power, potential failure, his sense of his own brilliance and arrogance and how can

he control that—so fascinating."

Doctor Atomic brings together three of the most prominent figures in modern opera. A composer, a director-librettist and a baritone. Two Irish vocalists and one solo-spoken-train player. (Guess which one's the Canadian.)

Adams rose to prominence in the late 1970s as a member, with Philip Glass, Terry Riley and Steve Reich, of composing's so-called minimalist school. Their music, a rebellion against the anarchy of mid-century modernism, was repetitive, highly rhythmic and often unapologetically tuneful. Too conservative and eggheaded for mass consumption, but astonishingly accessible for at-home crowds who trundled across it.

Adams's first opera, 1987's *Nixon in China*, was solely in the minimalist mold. It was also his first major collaboration with Peter Sellars, an English director with a fright-ting shock of approval hair. Their collaborations since then have shared the same concern with high politics that made *Nixon in China* such a boxing novelty. *The Death of Kling-*



WHEN he was a kid in Ottawa in the 1970s, the peril of the atom was a subject of constant preoccupation

hoffer, their 1991 meditation on the selfish Lavin Brackman, drew harsh criticism from both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Adams and Sellars have collaborated on smaller-scale projects since *The Death of Klinghoffer*, but *Doctor Atomic* marks their return to opera. It also confirms the radical transformation of Adams's composition over the past decade from the cheerful symmetrical minimalism to something darker, more complex, ambiguous and personal. *Doctor Atomic* is a theory piece of fortuitous drama, daring rumpus, electronic noise and mournful laments. At times it barely makes sense. At times it's shockingly lyrical.

Sellars' libretto (the pair's long-time librettist, Alice Goodman, died early in the

planning stages for *Doctor Atomic*) is found-lyric pouches of prose from technical instruction manuals, memories of Manhattan Project participants, and literature that was dear to the well-read Oppenheimer. In the first act, as the scientists debate the morality of their project, the lyrics are fairly technical ("The computer controller has a mandate to 'ride herd' on the explosion problem," one manages to sing). In the second act, when (there is nothing left to do but wait, dramatic movement slows to a dead stop and the libretto weds away into metaphor and reverie.

In the opera's sweetest dramatic moment, Oppenheimer and his wife gaze at each other in bed. In its dramatic highlight, Oppenheimer has a crisis of conscience in the New Mexico desert, a moral dilemma Adams portrays with a gorgeous writing of the John Donne poem "Batter My Heart, Three Person'd God."

The crisis for the Times of London, who crossed the Atlantic to attend the *Doctor Atomic* premiere, called Finley's star turn in the Donne poem "astoundingly beautiful, profound and devastating." But then, that's the kind of year the baritone has been having. One New York City opera blog—there are such things—called Finley opera's "It's Boy of Summer 2007" and referred to the "barhunk" photo spread that graced the pages of *Opera News*.

Is boy? Barhunk? Finley works at the libels in what can only be called a charmingly barhunk manner. "Glibh-boy," he sings. "Fubhury breeds publicly. Glibh-casting; fubhury in Atomic has called my profile. I'd like to think that's not the only thing I'd buy. My Don Giovanni at the Met was also a personal, enjoyable success."

Sadly, Canada won't see much of Finley for the next while. Based in England with his wife and two children, he's booked well into the future at the world's great opera houses. Canadian companies have expressed interest, but they don't have the money to planfar enough ahead to catch someone in demand. True to his motto, the singer is trying to keep level-headed about it all. "Hopefully people are enjoying what I do," he says. "And the more places I go, there are going to be people who go. Oh my gosh, he's the greatest thing since sliced bread"—and there it'll be people thinking, "What the heck do people think is great about this guy?"

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Diabetes. Get Serious.

As a professional soccer player in Scotland in the 1960s and '70s, Eversley Lewis followed a strict diet and exercise regimen as part of his athletic training. Today, the recently retired labourer from Hamilton, Ontario, is equally focused on maintaining a healthy lifestyle, but now the goal is diabetes prevention. As a 60-year-old black man, Lewis is at especially high risk for type 2 diabetes. In addition to his age and race, Lewis' risk factors include a strong family history of diabetes — one grandmother lost both her legs to complications of diabetes, his father, who died in 1998 at age 78, had type 2 diabetes, and a brother, sister and niece all have the disease as well. He also has high blood pressure and high-normal blood glucose levels according to his doctor.

But Lewis takes his risks for diabetes seriously. He's active and regularly walks the dog, stretches and takes Tai chi. He makes healthy food choices (he loves fruit) and has never been overweight. Lewis drinks socially and doesn't smoke. He sees his doctor regularly, takes medication for high blood pressure, and his wife Mary Jane, a nurse, helps him keep an eye on his blood glucose levels.

"Hopefully," says Lewis, "I'm not going to get diabetes."



The odds are good — so good in fact, that the Canadian Diabetes Association is highlighting early prevention in its national "Diabetes: Get Serious" campaign in November, diabetes awareness month. Research has shown that a healthy lifestyle can help prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. "And, it really is time to get serious about diabetes prevention and management," says Michael Hewlett, President and CEO. The take-home message: "Understand your risks and do something about them!"

More than two million people in Canada have diabetes and about 900 have type 2 diabetes. This number is poised to grow even more because being overweight is a risk factor for diabetes and almost half of adults in Canada and one third of children age two to 11 are either overweight or obese.

Avoiding or postponing type 2 diabetes for as long as possible is important, first because it's a serious chronic



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nerve damage and foot problems.

Unfortunately, type 2 diabetes can be a silent disease in its early stages, says Dr. Ehud Uzi, Professor of Medicine at Dalhousie University, Halifax. Some studies suggest it takes five to seven years before it is diagnosed. "And while there are no early noticeable symptoms, metabolic abnormalities can damage the body, particularly the small and large blood vessels."

"That means the clock is ticking in terms of complications of the disease well before people know they have it."

Research has shown that a healthy lifestyle can help prevent or delay type 2 diabetes.

Day-to-day prevention

As Eversley Lewis knows, just because a person is at risk for type 2 diabetes, doesn't mean he is going to get the disease. Here are healthy lifestyle habits that can help reduce your risks:

- **Understand your risk factors** (take our quiz) and learn more about the disease, says Dr. Marilyn Cook, a family physician at the Alkovee reserve, which straddles the borders of Quebec, Ontario and New York state and is home to 11,000 First Nations people. Talk to your doctor or visit www.diabetes.ca for more information.
- **Lose weight** if you are overweight. Even moderate weight loss (three to five per cent of total body weight) will help. (If your ideal weight is 180 lbs for example, and you weigh 200 lbs, five per cent is only 10 lbs.)
- **Make healthy food choices** (i.e., eat more fruits and vegetables, watch your portion size and reduce fat).
- **Be more active** (exercise moderately — for example, walk — four to five times a week for half an hour).
- **Learn how to manage stress.** Dr. Cook explains that stress goes hand-in-hand with diabetes and also causes blood pressure and heart rate to go up. Stress management techniques include yoga and massage, and for her patient population, Dr. Cook recommends solitary walks in nature.
- **Don't smoke.**

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TYPES OF DIABETES

TYPE 1 diabetes occurs when the pancreas no longer produces any insulin (the body needs insulin to use glucose for energy). It accounts for almost 10 per cent of people with diabetes.

TYPE 2 diabetes occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body does not effectively use the insulin that is produced (insulin resistance). Ninety per cent of people with diabetes have type 2.

GESTATIONAL diabetes is temporary and occurs during pregnancy, affecting approximately 3.5 per cent of all pregnancies and increasing the risk of developing diabetes for both mother and child.



The ABCs of diabetes management

Once you have type 2 diabetes, healthy lifestyle habits remain a cornerstone of therapy in managing the disease. But the Association's most recent *Clinical Practice Guidelines*

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF DIABETES

- if you have symptoms, see your doctor and get tested (a simple blood test) right away
- unusual thirst
- frequent urination
- weight change (gain or loss)
- extreme fatigue or lack of energy
- blurred vision
- recurring or frequent infections
- cuts and bruises that are slow to heal
- tingling or numbness in hands or feet
- trouble getting or maintaining an erection

for the Prevention and Management of Diabetes in Canada recommends a more aggressive approach with appropriate medication as well, says Dr. Stewart Harris, Chair of the Canadian Diabetes Association Clinical Practice Guidelines, Associate Professor and McWhinney Chair for Family Medicine Studies at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Western Ontario. "If you have high blood sugar and high blood pressure, for example, lifestyle is an important component of treatment, but medications are required to delay or prevent complications such as heart disease."

Many doctors now use ABC targets when they talk to their patients about diabetes management. "A" is for the

QUIZ: ARE YOU AT RISK FOR DIABETES?

If you are age 40 or over, you are at risk for type 2 diabetes and should be tested at least every three years. Take this quick quiz and if one or more of these statements apply to you, talk to your doctor about getting tested for type 2 diabetes earlier and/or more often.

Check the statements that apply to you:

- ☐ I have a parent, brother or sister who has diabetes.
- ☐ I belong to a high-risk group (Aboriginal, Hispanic, Asian, South Asian or African descent).
- ☐ I have health complications that are associated with diabetes (heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, diabetic eye disease, erectile dysfunction, nerve damage).

- ☐ I had a baby that weighed over 4 kg (9 lbs) at birth.
- ☐ I had gestational diabetes (diabetes during pregnancy).
- ☐ I have impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) or impaired fasting glucose (IFG).
- ☐ I have high blood pressure.
- ☐ I have high cholesterol or other fats in the blood.
- ☐ I am overweight or obese.
- ☐ I have been diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: polycystic ovary syndrome, acanthosis nigricans (darkened patches of skin) or schizophrenia.

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A1C glycosylated hemoglobin blood test that shows your average blood glucose level over the past three months. "If" is for blood pressure and "C" is for blood cholesterol. Keeping blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol in a healthy range can reduce the risk of complications.

Dr. Harris says that it's important not to "be blamed or to

blame yourself if, increasingly, you need the support of medications or even insulin injections. Diabetes is a progressive disease and it changes throughout your lifetime. You have to respond to it as it does." The longer you have type 1 or type 2 diabetes and poor control, the higher the risk for complications.

BEYOND THE EDMONTON PROTOCOL

Research funded by the Canadian Diabetes Association may ultimately help treat, if not cure, patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes. One such research project builds on the groundbreaking discoveries of the Edmonton Protocol which showed that transplanting healthy pancreatic cells

could be used to reintroduce insulin-producing cells into people with type 1 diabetes. New research that targets a small protein in the islet amyloid polypeptide may help improve the procedure.

We know that an unexplained toxic accumulation of islet amyloid contributes to the death of insulin-producing



Research in this area is ongoing, but "one problem is that amyloid forms in islets that are cultured before they're transplanted into people with type 1 diabetes," says Dr. Verchere. "We think that this amyloid may contribute to loss of beta cells in transplant and transplant failure."

Dr. Verchere's lab in the Child and Family Research Institute at the B.C. Children's Hospital has started working at cleaning up cultured islet preparations. The process involves experimenting with different compounds (or drugs) in attempts to block islet amyloid from developing.

"While we are doing this," says Dr. Verchere, "We think

Transplanting healthy pancreatic cells could be used to reintroduce insulin-producing cells into people with type 1 diabetes.

beta cells in people with type 2 diabetes," says Dr. Bruce Verchere, Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of British Columbia and lead researcher. This happens over a number of years and contributes in a major way to a loss of insulin production that occurs in type 2 diabetes.

While islet amyloid does not form in people who have type 1 diabetes (an autoimmune reaction is responsible for the destruction of insulin-producing beta cells), a possible link has been made in islet transplants explains Dr. Verchere.

we will find ways to make better islets for transplantation so you have happier and healthier islet cells with less contaminating cells." While this may ultimately improve the success of islet transplantation as a way to treat or cure type 1 diabetes it may also lead to the development of a drug for patients with type 2 diabetes that would inhibit the process from beginning in the first place.

The data is definitely promising, says Dr. Verchere, who received funding from the Canadian Diabetes Association for his project this past July and who is working closely with a collaborator in Toronto as well as a number of transplant surgeons in Vancouver, Montreal and Edmonton.

LIVING WITH HIGH CHOLESTEROL YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'S AROUND THE CORNER



Don't delay. Take control of your cholesterol now.

Some risks are controllable. One of them is your high cholesterol, which can lead to heart disease such as a heart attack or even a stroke. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Canada¹ and about one quarter of heart attack sufferers do not survive.²

Life is precious, so why not take measures to reduce unnecessary risk? High cholesterol is manageable. A healthy lifestyle is an essential part, but sometimes not enough. So it may be necessary for your doctor to incorporate other measures.

Since high cholesterol is a major risk factor for heart attack and stroke, why take a chance by doing nothing about it?

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Make the Commitment.

Cholesterol & Your Heart





Food for thought

Healthy eating helps manage blood glucose and weight. Sharon Zeiler, Senior Manager, Nutrition Initiatives and Strategies, Canadian Diabetes Association, provides 12 practical healthy eating tips that you can share with the whole family.

1. Consult the Canadian Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.ca or 1-800-BASTING (1-800-326-5464) for a copy of *Just the Basics, Healthy Eating for Diabetes Prevention and Management* for some simple tips to plan meals. For more comprehensive information, see a certified diabetes educator or registered dietitian who can work with you using *Beyond the Basics*, the Canadian Diabetes Association's new meal planning guide based on 15 grams of carbohydrate per serving in each of the carbohydrate-containing groups (grains and starches, fruits, milk and alternatives, other choices). Research has shown that if you control carbohydrates, the macronutrient that affects blood glucose the most, it is easier to keep blood glucose in target range.
2. Plan meals around grocery specials to save money. Then, make a grocery list so you have everything on hand when you need it, says Zeiler.

3. Involve the family in the kitchen to share the chores and to teach healthy eating tips too. Kids are more likely to eat food that they have helped to prepare.
4. Keep ready-to-eat fruit and vegetables (such as cut-up oranges and washed and prepped carrots and celery) in the fridge in see-through containers.
5. Use the Canadian Diabetes Association's *Healthy Portion Guide* (available at www.diabetes.ca) to estimate appropriate portions using your hands. A protein serving, for example, should be an amount the size of the palm of your hand and the thickness of your little finger.
6. Portion plates in the kitchen and leave serving dishes there. Anyone who wants seconds will have to go get it — and be conscious of the fact that they are eating more.



7. Emphasize vegetables — they're low in calories and full of nutrients. Fill half the plate with vegetables, one quarter with meat or alternative and one quarter with grains or starches such as pasta, rice or potatoes.
8. Use as little extra fat as possible — for example, choose visible fat from meat.
9. Measure out oil rather than eyeball the amount — studies have been shown that people underestimate the amount they use.
10. Cut the amount of fat in a recipe in half. If you need more while you're cooking, add it, but by far, then.
11. Use less salt in cooking, and at the table. Ask a registered dietitian if you need "lower sodium" food products.
12. Pick up one of several new cookbooks written in cooperation with the Canadian Diabetes Association: *Canada's Best Cookbook for Kids and Diabetes* by Colleen Barclay (Robert Ross/Firefly Books, 2005), *Complete Canadian Diabetes Cookbook* edited by Katherine Younger (Robert Ross/Firefly Books, 2005), *Everyday Diabetes Cookbook* by Stella Bowling (Key Porter Books, 2005), *Best of Clever Menus: Meal Planning and Recipes for Diabetes and Healthy Living* by Marjorie Hollands and Margaret Howard (John Wiley, 2005).

COVER: SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTOGRAPHY; HOW CANADIAN: BEST COOKBOOK FOR KIDS WITH DIABETES: BY COLLEEN BARCLAY; ROBERT ROSS; BEST COOKBOOK FOR ADULTS WITH DIABETES: BY STELLA BOWLING; KEY PORTER BOOKS



Research frontiers

Is there a link between diabetes and heart disease in pre-menopausal women? Can city living somehow trigger type 2 diabetes? Are there genes that predispose kids to type 1? These are some of the questions that researchers are currently exploring with Canadian Diabetes Association funding. The Canadian Diabetes Association has committed \$6 million to research, this ►

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Being overweight is the biggest risk factor in children.



your funding 123 projects across Canada, according Donna Lillie, the Canadian Diabetes Association's Vice-President, Research and Professional Education. "Future plans include expanded research opportunities, creating a web-based resource to share research findings and other information among healthcare providers, diabetes educators, physicians, researchers and people who live with diabetes," says Dr David J. HW, National Chair, Canadian Diabetes Association and Scientific Director of Lawson Health Research Institute in London, Ont.

Diabetes and children

You've probably heard that increasingly children are being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. Studies show a link between the incidence of type 2 and family history of diabetes and the growing obesity rate in adults and kids. Further research may help explain what factors put children at risk and how diabetes may one day be prevented.

Being overweight is the biggest risk factor for children, and the concern with children is they will live with diabetes longer and may develop complications of the disease earlier, says Dr. Zdenek Pusthakar, Assistant Professor of Endocrinology and Metabolism, McMaster University Medical Centre, Hamilton. Social messages need to

change to encourage healthy eating and regular activity, says Pusthakar. His research is looking at the association between obesity and type 2 diabetes in children, specifically in regards to hormones created by fat.

Dr. Shi Wu Wen, an epidemiologist at Ottawa Health Research Institute, University of Ottawa, is working with researchers in China, where urban lifestyle regarding fast food consumption and sedentary lifestyles is similar to Canada. He is reviewing records of 30,000 babies and wants them to see if the size of babies is caused by overeating by the mother during pregnancy and also to study whether fatter babies grow to be fatter adolescents. He suggests bigger babies become big adults, which increases diabetes risk. Wen's research may ultimately affect guidelines for nutrition for pregnant women.

Bringing the best together

The Canadian Diabetes Association's Professional Conference and Annual Meeting in Edmonton in October bring over 2,000 clinicians, scientists and healthcare providers together under one roof. "These front line people," says conference co-chair Lois Beard, a diabetes nurse educator and nurse manager at Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg, "learn all the new strategies and treatment ideas, then go back and deliver state-of-the-art care in their communities across Canada." ■

WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT DIABETES... ARE YOU?

The Canadian Diabetes Association is the largest, non-profit organization in Canada supporting diabetes research, education, service and advocacy. Here are ways everyone can get involved and help.

- Visit www.diabetes.ca for lots of valuable information.
- Wear a red "Diabetes Get Serious" wristband (available for \$2 from your local Canadian Diabetes Association branch; visit www.diabetes.ca and click on Regional Offices).
- Make a donation.
- Recycle your old clothes and household goods with the Canadian Diabetes Association Clothesline call 1-800-565-5525 for a free pickup.
- Volunteer by calling 1-800-BANTING (1-800-226-8444).
- Ask the Canadian Diabetes Association about a new information program for children ages 6 to 9 that can be presented at your child's school or after-school program.



Marlene McPherson
Taking diabetes seriously.

WHEN MARLENE MCPHERSON WAS DIAGNOSED WITH type 2 diabetes nine years ago, diet and exercise initially kept her blood glucose levels under control. After about a year, however, she began treatment for breast cancer. Her blood glucose levels soared and refused to come down. Ever since, McPherson, now 47, has required multiple medications to keep her diabetes under control.

McPherson isn't alone. Type 2 diabetes is a chronic, progressive disease that affects nearly two million Canadians. Left untreated or poorly managed, it wreaks havoc on the body. Over time, abnormally high blood glucose levels damage large and small blood vessels and dramatically increase the risk of heart attack, stroke, kidney failure, limb amputation, blindness and even premature death. Unfortunately, one in two Canadians with type 2 diabetes do not have their blood glucose under control, according to a recently released study known as the Diabetes in Canada Evaluation (DICE). The majority of these people also have serious associated health conditions. In addition, the study reports that the longer a person has had diabetes, the more likely the disease is to be poorly controlled and the more likely the person will have had one or more complications, such as a heart attack or kidney disease.

"This study is a wake-up call," says Donna Lillie, Vice-President, Research and Professional Education, Canadian Diabetes Association. "Now is the time to get serious about diabetes management. We have the evidence and knowledge to manage diabetes effectively; we need to use it."

Guidelines produced by the Canadian Diabetes Association recommend healthy eating and regular activity as the cornerstones of type 2 diabetes management. But, because of the progressive nature of the disease, many people will also require one or more medications to effectively control their blood glucose levels. Treatment guidelines emphasize the need to aggressively manage blood glucose levels to get as close to normal as possible as quickly as possible after diagnosis. This may mean adding a second oral medication earlier.

"To manage this serious and complex disease, we need a comprehensive healthcare approach," says Lillie. "One that involves the patient and physician at the core, with support from other diabetes experts who can help people stay healthy — specialists, diabetes educators, nurses, dietitians, pharmacists — and organizations like the Canadian Diabetes Association. People also need access to diabetes education and medications."

McPherson agrees, and now works with her family physician, dietitian, and diabetes nurse educator to keep her diabetes under control. "It's a lot of work," she admits. "And sometimes it's very frustrating being so disciplined with my lifestyle and medications just to maintain my health, but I keep on because I want to live a long time."

The DICE study was conducted by Ipsos Reid Healthcare and led by Dr. Stewart Harris, Associate Professor, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, The University of Western Ontario and Dr. Jean-Marie Dussault, Professor, Centre Hospitalier l'Université de Montréal (CHUM), Hôpital Hôtel-Dieu, Montreal.

KNOW HOW TO TURN TO

For more information about diabetes prevention and management, contact the Canadian Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.ca or 1-800-BANTING.



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BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Crows are smarter than we think, and more like humans than we care to admit

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN complexed, the relationship between humans and corvids, as sci-fi enthusiasts call the 40-plus species of crows and ravens scattered about the world. As trickster figures, agents of wisdom or harbingers of doom, corvids are a constant presence in myth and art—one of the latest examples being Calgary author Glen Martin's superb children's series, *Rooster and Bear: The Crow Chronicles*. But most species are not pretty as

look as, and many are downright ugly to hear, like gales on rusty hinges swinging in the wind. Worse, corvids eat almost anything, including what we very much wish they would not, like our dead, our grain, and baby youngsters. Hence the word "ravenous" to describe all-consuming hunger. Crows roost in flocks of up to two million, fouling the surrounding area and making nearby humans very nervous. So, for all the wary respect they inspire—it's no accident that a group of crows is known as a "murder"—

we have also shot, poisoned and even dynamited them. In Oklahoma alone during the Great Depression, 127 buzz-killed 3.8 million crows.

It all adds up—in the judgment of biologist John Marzluff, co-author with artist Tony Angel of the forthcoming trade book *Party of Crows and Ravens*—to a kind of human-crow co-evolution. That's why a co-

Corvids play crow neck one another in the white ravens' backyard down snowy hillsides.

nsensual concept, like as Candace Savage's forthcoming *Crows: Encounters With the Wild Gays of the Avian World* shows, even those scientists who are uneasy with the idea of corvid consciousness grant that crows are intelligent enough to make the concept plausible. And how smart they are has only recently become clear.

By any measure corvids talk, even have 80 different calls, and captive individuals greet their human visitors with different sounds, presumably names. Crows make tools out of whatever is at hand, including bending sticks to the end of twigs and wires to pull food out of hard-to-reach places. They remember their persecutors. Marzluff, a University of Washington professor, notes that the crows on his campus know him as



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Does IT Deliver a Competitive Advantage?



>>> Nicholas Carr

An acclaimed business writer and thinker, Nicholas Carr is a Senior Executive Editor of the *Harvard Business Review* and author of *Don't Make Me Think*, published by O'Reilly. He is also the bestselling author of *Competitive Advantage*.



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An internationally sought-after consultant and speaker on business strategy and organizational transformation, Don Tapscott is the President of New Paradigm Learning Corp. and an Adjunct Professor at the Rotman School of Management. He is also the bestselling author of *Network Nation*.



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someone who captures and hands their young. Although they walk placidly among the 40,000 other humans who daily cross their territory, university crows let off loud warning cries whenever Marshall arrives. He now tries to alter his appearance each time he climbs to a nest.

In Seattle, experiments have shown that crows have learned to recognize the Golden Arch logo as well as any human preschooler. Offered a choice of the same fries inside a McDonald's bag or a plain wrapper, the majority vote with Jamba Timberlake. Along one Japanese highway, crows wait at traffic lights for cars to stop, and then place wreaths in front of tires so that humans can do the hard work of cracking the shells open. First documented in 1975, this behaviour has now spread for several kilometres along the road. That means crows can learn, and quickly, what's crows, since friendly drivers have taken to sliding still-placed nuts, crows evidently can teach too.

Crowds pair-bond for life, and cheat on their spouses. They work together for common goals, and lie to one another about food caches. Crows care for their injured and mourn their dead, quite possibly, Marshall reports, they also create winged demons in the flock. And crows play: young crows race one another through the air, while adults have been seen body-surfing down snowy hillides in Maine. In fact, for creatures that have shared a common ancestor with humans some 280 million years ago, they are as useful for life as

Don't the astonishingly elastic crow discussions 680 food items have been found in their stomachs—is just an extreme version of our own, mild one of the most wide-ranging and wasteful nature. When food is abundant, crows can be picky eaters. In Marinetti, where gull studies are plentiful in spring, a crow will kill one but eat only the liver after making a deft, 180-inch in the air, to the water's edge. When times are hard, though, crows do not turn up their beaks at other dead or human waste. Not that times are ever really hard for crows in modern North America, a constant new banquet in corn, garbage and roadkill. (An American writer Ian Frazier's satire *The Crow's Bird* puts it, crow prosperity is based on "their manmade control of everything that gets man on over the road.")

A cat-in-hat search does confer considerable evolutionary benefits, of course, but



Crows, along with gulls, were the main menaces in Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*.

what really disturbs crows is their giant brethren. An proportion of body size, crow brains are at parrot levels—Marshall calls them "tiny monkeys." And it's speculation about that remarkable intelligence that has moved crow research to the leading edge of evolutionary science. Early humans and crows interacted for hundreds of thousands of years, with the sight of gathering birds alerting our ancestors—as much scavenger as human—to dead animals. Just traditions even exist that crows, which require other animals to kill the adults they scavenge, sometimes lead humans to hunting opportunities so that we could bring down the game that fed both species. Raven thieves and making of surplus meat almost certainly evolved in tandem with human

co-operation in food storage and defense, according to Marshall. And crows influence may have played a role in domesticating northern wolves, which will routinely lose up to 20 kg of meat per kill to the birds. Maybe, Marshall suggests, some wolves opted to become dogs in part because the necessary portion was too tough.

As humanity turned to agriculture, crows became the most significant crowds for us. Their raw grain diet risked a deadly population growth that became an explosion in recent decades—an estimated 17 per cent increase per year before World War II. As they arrived after we turned North America into a crow unmanageable (and stopped the dynamism). The reverse influence, crows' effect on human behaviour and thought, has been more subtle in modern times. It speaks from training monkeys to open waters to inspiring the work of scientists featured in Song's book.

Researcher intelligence is now turning away from genetic relationships and the concept of animals sharing their wits in the eternal battle of predator and prey. Instead, they seek the roots of conscious awareness in complex social lines, where an ability to learn new behaviour allows individuals to gain evolutionary advantage through interaction with each other. Crows and humans both, in a way. Our species may not be biologically related, but our behavioural resemblance may be only natural after all.



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ROGERS
Your World Right Now

BACKTALK



Books | Lori Lansens is the woman behind *The Girls*

The author and her conjured characters root for Detroit teams and love Motown

When you live in southwestern Ontario—particularly the small towns close to the Windsor-Detroit area—you watch the Detroit news, cheer for the Red Wings and the Tigers, and have a special connection to Motown music. “You grow up with a really weird identity,” says author Lori Lansens, who hails from Chatham, Ont., and now lives in Toronto. She self her new novel, *The Girls*—a soul-wrestling drama in order to play on the proximity theme. “So close to America but not American,”

explains Lansens, 48. “No close to my roots, but not my sister.”

The conjured twins are Rose and Ruby, librarians who don't have much in common—except an overwhelming love for one other. Lansens has fashioned the novel as their autobiography, with chapters written by each. Like the author's debut, bestseller *Push Home* (2002), *The Girls* has buzz. She chalks up her success to the discipline she developed in her 15 years as a screenwriter. Although a little homesick, Lansens also helps. SHARON DEZIEL

“You're making people they will never forget.”

—Book publisher Diane Martin, who fast-tracked *The Girls*

Film | More DJ than director

In every Cameron Crowe movie (Jerry Maguire, Almost Famous) the music provides the message. His latest, *Elizabeth Hurley*, starring Orlando Bloom and Kirsten Dunst (below with the director), is no different. The film is an accessory to the soundtrack, which includes Ryan Adams and Tom Petty. We spoke with the L.A. director about his passion for tunes. **WHAT SONG DO YOU WANT PLAYED AT YOUR FUNERAL?** Sir Starkey's Pete Townshend. It's so deeply melancholic. I'd also like a really good live version of Pearl Jam's "Recess." I just love how it builds and builds before ending on a large grace note. **WHAT'S ON YOUR IPOD RIGHT NOW?** I have 43 days of music on



it and the memory is full. It's nearly soul music—not R & B, but authentic rock music. Most of it is filled with possible songs for the movie, so maybe now I can dump a lot of them.

IS THERE A SONG YOU WANT TO USE BUT CAN'T FIND THE PERFECT SCENE? I will be there when you die by My Morning Jacket. It was a big inspiration for *Elizabeth Hurley*, but just didn't fit. Sometimes you can't rise to the challenge of what a song already can do on its own. Some songs are better movies.

WHEN DOES MUSIC SOUND BEST? Owning it in the car with the windows down. Or is the great last instrument. JOHN WOTR



MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Daycare is great, but when are we going to get as obsessive about R & D?

ONE REASON politicians are so reluctant to look past the next poll is that there's no reward for trying. It's conventional wisdom in Ottawa that Paul Martin's position is just about as strong as it will get until his staff finally cut at the next day's newspaper headlines. But last month Martin tried to take the long view, just for a change. It didn't work. He had any converts in the press gallery. I don't suspect he'll try again. Which is a problem, because Martin's mistake isn't that he was wrong to take the long view. It's that he

doesn't know how right he was.

On Sept. 28, Martin converted most of the capital atmosphere into fear for a speech in Hull on "the sweeping nature of the future as work in the world" and "what they mean for our country." Genuine big picture stuff.

The sweeping forces—which require "the full attention and concerted action of government," if they are permitted to stabilize the two words that are better to cause us all grief—were two in number. One is Canada's aging population. The other is "the startling rise of China and India."

What kind of advice do the sweeping forces call for? "Innovation." What other kind of advice?

The Prime Minister proceeded to describe the list, concerned, innovative, sustained action his government has taken. It turns out everything he has ever done, or might yet do, a part of this list, concerned, innovative, sustained response.

The aging population needs health care reform, programs for Aboriginals and higher immigration into necessary. The rise of India and China gets the kitchen-sink treatment, too: deals for cities, environmental policy, "promotion of Canada's assets abroad," foreign aid, defence, economic integration with Mexico, Arctic sovereignty, day care, Pacific ports.

I'm not making this list up. At one point Martin mentioned "shrinking tax coverage" leading to "a commercially viable Northwest Passage." So we're against global warming but we suspect it might come in handy. This falls under the India-and-China part



of our program, if you're not keeping track. This list of action is certainly full. Some of it is innovative. Sustained? Well, maybe. What is really not in concerned. And that's a problem, because the challenges Martin describes are real. And whether Canada responds or not, other countries will. So we can't just rest of get this stuff right.

I have here the latest report on global investment from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, released nine days after Martin's speech. It describes the global reshuffling that the Prime Minister was talking about. In 2004, foreign direct investment in the developed world was down 14 per cent. But it was up 40 per cent in the developing world—actually, only in a handful of countries, India and China first among them.

Forget Made In China dog toys and T-shirts. China and India are not kicking up the value added chain. In 1993, Motorola opened the first foreign-owned R & D lab

in China. Now there are 700. General Electric has 2,400 research engineers in India. And the share of world semiconductor design went from roughly zero in 1995 to 30 per cent in 2003. Of the world's largest R & D performing companies, more than half do their R & D in India, China and Singapore. Sixty nine per cent expect that to increase. In Bangalore, 35,000 non-resident Indians have returned from abroad to work, mostly from the best schools and companies in the United States.

Other countries are working hard to fight the given sucking sound of highly mobile talent. Singapore is spending \$2 billion to recruit leading foreign scientists. If you're a foreign expert a Swedish company needs to succeed, Sweden will ignore 25 per cent of your income when it calculates your taxes. Belgium, Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands have similar incentives for smart foreigners. The Institut d'études politiques de Paris, training ground for France's political elite, has announced it simply won't recruit French faculty for the next two years, preferring foreign talent.

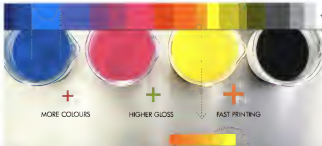
You notice I'm mostly talking about higher education and research. That UN report says that for developed countries like Canada, "current trends accentuate the need to rely even more on the creation, diffusion and exploitation of scientific and technological knowledge as a means of promoting growth and productivity." It's great to demonstrate opportunity through dignity, but if Canada isn't obsessive about having the best schools and the best labs, we won't keep the best minds.

Much of India doesn't even have seven, but Paul Martin mentions India in every speech because Indian governments have been obsessive about higher education. Unless Canada develops the same obsession, we can promote Canadian assets abroad all we want. It won't make a whole difference. ■

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